

Something for the weekend, sir

The new male contraceptive

INSIDE TODAY'S NEW-LOOK SECTION TWO

New clubs for the ageing groovers

WEDNESDAY 3 APRIL 1996 40p (IR 45p)

Bridget Jones's diary

## Major makes pledge on referendum

Rift with Chancellor is healed

DONALD MACINTYRE  
Political Editor

The Cabinet will today agree a formal promise not to enter a single currency in the next Parliament without a referendum after a potentially explosive split over the issue was resolved by John Major and the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke.

Mr Clarke yesterday finalised his assent to an agreement under which the Cabinet would make it clear that any decision to join a single currency would be put to the British people in a referendum.

The deal reached between the Prime Minister and the Chancellor left ministers confident last night that today's discussion of the issue would easily reach agreement on what is regarded by several as an essential means of uniting the party in the run-up to the general election.

Downing Street resolutely refused last night even to confirm that the issue would be discussed today, let alone that a deal had been reached. But under the agreement the Cabinet will make it clear that unlike in the 1975 referendum on EEC membership called by Harold Wilson, the Cabinet will be forced to accept collective responsibility.

That means senior Eurosceptic ministers would have to resign from the Cabinet if they wanted the freedom to campaign for a "no" vote in a referendum. In 1975 ministers were given licence by then Labour Prime Minister to campaign according to their personal opinion.

John Major last night sent out a Foreign Office paper detailing options on how a referendum could be called in the next Parliament and not to bind the Conservative Party for what could be different circumstances.

Senior Cabinet ministers – including Mr Major, Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, and Mr



Kenneth Clarke (above) and Michael Heseltine: In close contact during negotiations



Michael Heseltine

stances after another election. Mr Clarke, with some backing from Mr Heseltine, was worried that the move was one of a continuing series of concessions to Eurosceptics which might well not end with a referendum pledge. Such fears have been increased by evident worries among some Tory strategists about the electoral threat posed by Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party.

But Mr Major is understood to have made clear in a number of conversations with the Chancellor that the move was not part of a process which would threaten the carefully agreed truce on Europe agreed between both wings of the party. Efforts are also expected to be made by Downing Street to ensure that Mr Clarke is not seen as having suffered a blow to his prestige by having overcome his opposition to a referendum.

Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, said last night as reports of the deal began to circulate in Westminster: "This is one more example of the Prime Minister caving in to pressure. everyone knows this decision has nothing to do with the interests of the country and everything to do with holding together a divided and disintegrating party."

One possibility which had been canvassed among some ministers was for a formula which would closely follow Labour's terms by saying that the Government would seek popular assent for any decision to join a single currency either through a general election or a referendum. But today's statement is likely to make clear that any decision to join a single currency would be followed by a referendum.

John Redwood, the leading Tory Eurosceptic, said last night he would be "quite satisfied" with a stipulation that Cabinet ministers opposed to the single currency would have to resign in order to campaign for a "no" vote in a referendum.

Clarke, who is strongly opposed to such a pledge – were in close contact amid continuing efforts to reach a deal.

Mr Rifkind was among those strongly pressing for a decision at today's Cabinet and during intensive talks yesterday Mr Clarke is understood to have been assured by Mr Major that he would continue to leave open the question of British EMU membership in the next Parliament. It is also expected to be made clear that the referendum pledge is only intended to apply in the next Parliament and not to bind the Conservative Party for what could be different circumstances.

Senior Cabinet ministers – including Mr Major, Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, and Mr

‘It is a crime too great to hide, but do we have the stomach to bring the killers to trial?’



Murder trail: Human remains in the village of Konjevic Polje, one of 10 suspected mass graves under investigation in eastern Bosnia. Photograph: AP

War crimes investigators yesterday began the search for evidence to support charges of genocide against Bosnian Serb leaders, amid signs that at least one mass grave has been violated recently in order to cover up evidence.

Despite the best efforts of those who would bury a crime too great to hide, the evidence of mass murder is there. It remains only to be seen whether the international community has the stomach to bring the murderers to trial.

A large section of earth has been freshly turned at one site suspected of housing the remains of more than 600 Muslim men who were executed after the fall of the town of Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia in July. The rest of the ground at the site, known as Srebrenica One, shows old vehicle tracks and earthworks covered with young grass.

Nato's peace implementation force, IFOR, has refused to

secure the areas suspected of housing mass graves, saying it is not a military task. IFOR officials said they had no evidence of tampering at any site, despite reporters' accounts of interference at more than one alleged grave. Yesterday, spokesmen refused to discuss the issue.

David Rohde, the only journalist known to have visited Srebrenica One, shortly after the alleged killings, said yesterday that the remains he saw in the area last year, including clothing, spectacles, shoes and walking sticks, had been removed. "Seventy per cent of the larger grave has been dug up, and half

of the smaller one," Mr Rohde said. "All of the jackets have gone, and all of the canes."

A six-man team from the International Criminal Tribunal on the former Yugoslavia has begun to survey the sites in search of evidence to support witnesses' reports and surveillance photos, which suggest Bosnian Serbs massacred at least 3,000 Muslims from Srebrenica and buried in them in at least 11 mass graves.

General Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leaders, have been indicted by the tribunal for genocide and crimes against humanity

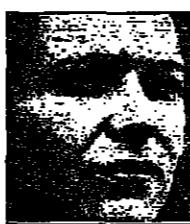
"They will not exhume remains. They will not investigate suspected atrocity sites."

"We will not guard sites, evidence or suspected war criminals. We will not be involved in witness protection."

Serb soldiers are suspected of tampering with graves elsewhere in Bosnia. But tribunal sources have said the testimony of witnesses and survivors, along with photographs, provides compelling evidence.

Opening the graves is vital to the families of those who are missing. Exhuming and identifying bodies is one of the few ways they will know whether their relatives are dead or alive.

Serb killing fields, page 10



Emma Daly entered the killing fields of Bosnia yesterday. At a mass grave near Zvornik, she found a vain attempt to cover up the slaughter



## Labour MPs defy Blair on terrorism Act

COLIN BROWN  
and JASON BENNETT

Tony Blair last night suffered the biggest backbench revolt since he became leader of the Labour Party when 31 Labour MPs rebelled over the Government's decision to rush through Parliament emergency measures to combat terrorism.

The Labour MPs defied an appeal by Shadow Home Secretary Jack Straw to abstain over giving the police new powers to stop and search for terrorist devices such as small bombs. "There are no civil rights which

can be exercised from the graveyard," he said.

After registering their protest at the speed with which the Prevention of Terrorism (Additional Powers) Bill was being whipped through Parliament, the Labour MPs were threatening to delay the passage of the legislation with a series of 21 amendments to protect the civil rights of those stopped.

Mr Straw assured his backbenchers that the Labour leadership's decision to give the legislation a fair wind through the threatened all-night sitting was based on security briefings

with Michael Howard, the Home Secretary.

David Veness, Assistant Commissioner of Scotland Yard met Mr Straw on Monday to warn him of the likely threat of further IRA attacks. The Security Service is understood to have warned that the Easter period could be used by the IRA to mark the 80th anniversary of the Easter Uprising in Dublin, the rebellion against British rule.

The Independent has learned that senior police officers and Home Office officials have been in low-level discussions

about additional powers to stop and search terrorist suspects for up to 18 months before the IRA ceasefire was broken. It was only last month that chief constables made an application to the Home Secretary for new legislation.

Advises Mr Blair last night mounted a damage-limitation exercise, playing down the Labour rebellion as a protest against the Government for its decision to rush the legislation through without consultation. But there were rumblings of discontent from some Labour MPs

about the Blair leadership bowing to the Government. Many of the MPs were among the 25 who last month broke ranks by voting against the renewal of the controversial Prevention of Terrorism Act.

The MPs, led by Max Madden, the MP for Bradford West, and Kevin McNamara, the former Labour spokesman on Northern Ireland, were planning to force the Commons to sit late into the night over the amendments, which include a provision to make the emergency laws expire within four months of coming into force.

### IN BRIEF

Hospital death probe  
Police are investigating the deaths of four patients in a Newcastle hospital after a nurse was sacked.

Charities get political  
A new political force backed by several of Britain's charities has been launched.

Today's weather  
Dry and bright with good sunny spells. Section two, page 29

## Mystery as head of Woolwich resigns

The head of the Woolwich building society, which is planning a £3 billion stock market flotation, resigned tonight after an emergency board meeting.

The society said Peter Robinson was standing down as group chief executive just three months after he took over the post, but refused to comment on the reasons.

A spokeswoman said that former chief executive Donald Kirkham would take over as head of the society until a replacement could be found. She added the Woolwich's plans for a flotation and conversion to a bank "remained on track".

Sir Brian Jenkins, the society's chairman, said it would not be appropriate for him or Mr Robinson to make any further comment.

City speculation of a boardroom row at the country's third largest society had been mounting during the afternoon.

Mr Robinson, 54, who was born in Bexleyheath, south-east London, where the society is headquartered, was seen as the driving force behind the flotation plans whereas Mr Kirkham, chief executive for 10 years before Mr Robinson's appointment, was an opponent of conversion.

The society was anxious to stress the flotation would still go ahead. Sir Brian stressed: "The normal business of the society is entirely unaffected. The society's assets and members' funds remain unimpaired."

"The board has the full confidence in the continuing management of the society under Donald Kirkham, pending the appointment of a new group chief executive."

Rob Thomas, building society analyst at merchant bank UBS, said: "I don't think this will upset the flotation timetable."

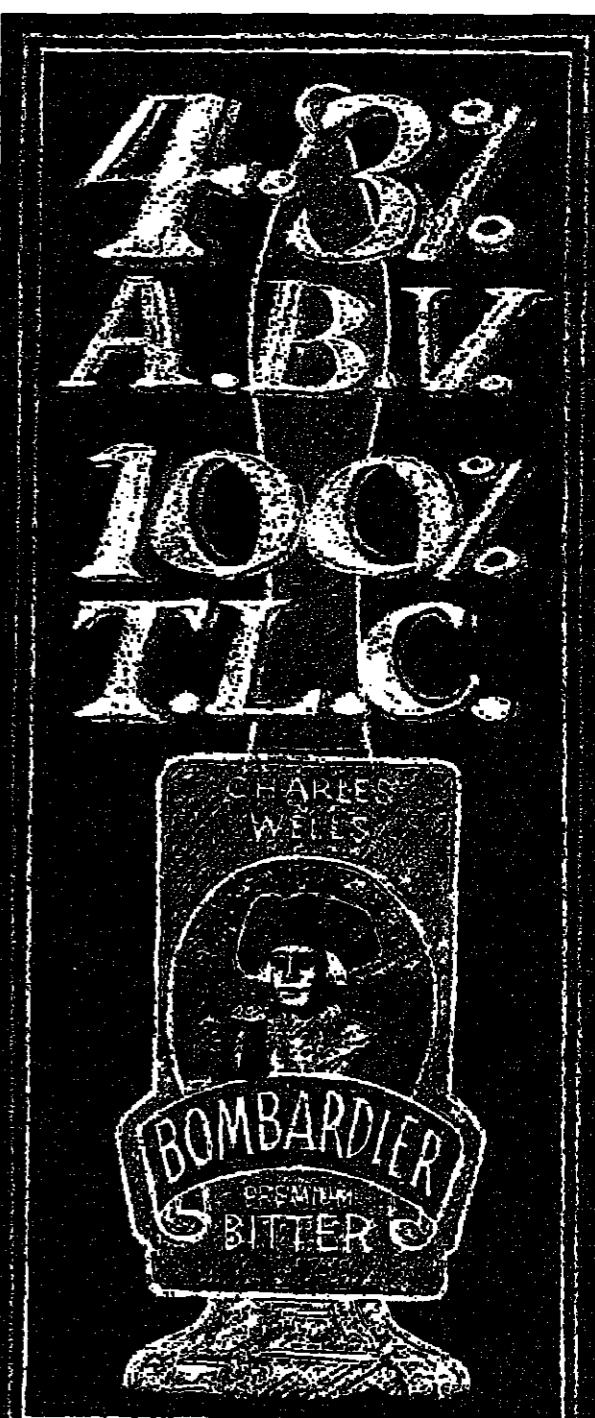
Mr Robinson took over as

chief executive of the society on 1 January, and 10 days later announced he would be taking the society to the stock market.

There had been speculation that Mr Robinson, who started out as a management trainee, had not found the relationship easy with Sir Brian, a former Lord Mayor of London and City accountant.

The manner of Mr Robinson's departure, after a hurriedly-called emergency board meeting, was almost as rapid as the pace of the change he brought to the society.

Within 11 days of his appointment he announced plans





news

# Police in hospital deaths inquiry

Nurse dismissed after four patients die in intensive care unit

JAMES CUSICK

Police are investigating the deaths of four patients, including two girls aged 12 and 15, in the adult intensive care ward of a Newcastle upon Tyne hospital following the dismissal of a nurse sacked for "gross misconduct". All four patients who died had at one time been under the care of the nurse now under investigation.

Northumbria police, called in by the coroner to conduct a full inquiry, are examining hospital records going back to 1991.

Jim Cousins, MP for Newcastle Central, yesterday called for a public inquiry into the management of the intensive care unit at the Royal Victoria Infirmary. "We are clearly talking about extremely grave events which have occurred over a long period of time," he said. Mr Cousins added that if matters now involved the criminal law, why was it left to the coroner's office to bring in the police? "Why did the hospital trust not raise the alarm sooner if they had suspicions?"

Northumbria police confirmed a team of 12 detectives, headed by Detective Superintendent John Renwick, is investigating the deaths.

The nurse, in her late 30s, worked at the Royal Victoria Infirmary for 17 years before being sacked at a full disciplinary hearing last month. She had already been suspended for a month after an internal inquiry questioned her professional conduct relating to four deaths in the ITU between 1991 and 1995. The police said yesterday they would interview the nurse this week once initial inquiries were completed.

A force spokeswoman said relatives of three patients were being contacted, but one of the patients has yet to be identified. All four were from the North-east. Like many intensive care units, both the infirmary's adult and paediatric intensive care wards were said by one senior medical source in Newcastle to be under "a great deal of pressure". A hospital spokeswoman said the two girls who died would normally have been admitted to the children's ITU, they had been moved to the

adult unit "because of the nature of their injuries".

The patients who died in the ITU also included a 69-year-old woman and a middle aged man. Relatives of the dead 15-year-old, Patricia Dryden, from Blyth, said yesterday they had "been through hell" but were now facing another nightmare asking themselves could Patricia have lived?

Patricia's uncle, John Dryden, confirmed police had told the family they were investigating "irregularities in procedures in the intensive care unit". His niece had died after a gas aerosol she had been sniffing had ignited and exploded in her face. The burns she sustained were said to be "extreme".

Concerns over the nurse's conduct were raised at the beginning of this year by another nurse who worked in the unit.

Although not confirmed by the hospital authorities or the police, it is understood there were concerns over the removal of treatment for some seriously ill patients, and that in one case a drip feed was turned off without appropriate authority from the physician in charge.

Following an internal inquiry at the infirmary, during which the nurse was suspended, a disciplinary hearing was scheduled for March. The nurse, and the staff member who first alerted the hospital authorities, were both represented at the hearing by counsel from the Royal College of Nursing.

According to the Coroner's Office in Newcastle, the coroner, Leonard Coyle, was telephoned by the hospital's solicitor shortly after the sack.

On learning the alleged facts behind the dismissal, Mr Coyle called in the Northumbria police to carry out a full investigation. After her dismissal, the nurse lodged an immediate appeal. The RCN said yesterday: "We will not be representing the nurse at her appeal, but will offer legal representation if she needs it at a later date."

Police inquiries will include interviewing hospital staff and relatives of the patients. Medical records have been obtained by a court order granted by Judge Maurice Carr under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act.

Five hundred bewildered onlookers were herded on to trains and shovved through dark corridors yesterday to a secret destination, ending up in a secret aircraft hangar.

They were observers in the latest war between two global giants seeking international domination. Project Blue, kept under wraps for nearly two years, was finally unveiled. It was not a defence briefing or the launch of the latest sophisticated long-range missile. The massed ranks of journalists from 30 countries had been brought together to witness Pepsi spending £300m on

changing the colour of its cans from white and red to blue.

With supermarket own brands and newcomer Virgin Cola threatening to squeeze the market, the relaunch in a secluded part of Gatwick Airport was planned with military precision.

At present, Pepsi says its market share for carbonated drinks in Britain is 12.2 per cent, compared with 32.7 per cent for Coca-Cola, while Virgin Cola introduced in November 1994 has already gained 7.5 per cent.

Foremost in the hype are two supermodels, Claudia Schiffer and Cindy Crawford, and tennis star Andre Agassi. And if cola wars have been previously fought on land, Pepsi's re-



Blue is the colour: Andre Agassi, Claudia Schiffer and Concorde at yesterday's Pepsi relaunch in a hangar at Gatwick. Photograph: Geraint Lewis

## Pepsi unveils its £300m bolt from the blue

GLENDA COOPER

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Foremost in the hype are two supermodels, Claudia Schiffer and Cindy Crawford, and tennis star Andre Agassi. And if cola wars have been previously fought on land, Pepsi's re-

launch yesterday took the battle not only to the skies by painting a Concorde blue at an estimated cost of £100,000, but also to space with a message from Russian cosmonauts on the Mir station.

The decision to change the colour to blue was taken after research in Bahrain where consumers saw it as more modern and trendy, a pilot study led to a 9 per cent increase in sales.

Richard Brandt of Landor Associates, designer of the new can, said blue had been chosen "because it tends to be most people's favourite colour". He went on: "It's a futuristic colour, it's all about innovation and competition. It's the choice of a new

generation ... I know it's the colour of the Conservative Party but this is totally different."

Perma-tans and permawholes were much in evidence with executives assuring consumers that drinking new blue Pepsi – only the can has changed – equalled living on the edge and changing the script.

But marketing experts were unimpressed. Sean Brierley, deputy editor of *Marketing Week*, said the change was a gimmick. "Pepsi are making out that's a real Prometheus effort, but cans have their design changed constantly. And the amount of money they are spending ... The cola market is constantly thinking in the short term now. Sales

may go up for a month, but we should look at what's happening in a year's time."

Pepsi's competitors remained publicly untroubled. A spokesman for Virgin said: "If Pepsi are throwing money at changing the colour of a can that's a move of desperation. We're choosing to put money into new product development."

Louise Terry, of Coca-Cola, said: "We're fighting the battle on a different scale. I think from our viewpoint we need to make people buy more soft drinks rather than tea, coffee or squash. We sell Pepsi by three to one. And by the way, we sent cola cans up to the Mir station last year."

## Prophets of doom see dark side of moon

CHARLES ARTHUR  
Science Correspondent

Believers in astral portents of doom can get a double dose of worries tonight not only is there a comet, but the full moon will be eclipsed for four hours, starting at 10.20pm.

A lunar eclipse, caused when the moon moves into the shadow cast in space by the Earth, occurs about three times a year.

But tonight's is one of the best for years in terms of visibility in Britain.

"It's very fortunate, in that the circumstances of timing mean the full eclipse will happen at around midnight," said Jacqueline Mitton of the Royal Astronomical Society. "That means the moon will be high in the sky, so the effect will be greater." In the US, for example, the effect will be minimal

because the moon will still be in the sky there.

During the eclipse, which will continue until about 2am on Thursday, the moon may appear to turn copper or orange, or black out altogether. The colouring effect is caused by the sun's rays being bent by the Earth's atmosphere. The effect can be seen with the naked eye.

Meanwhile, the comet Hyakutake – another harbinger

of misfortune, according to some – will still be visible in the north-west sky. The comet is fading now and is lower in the sky than it was, but the eclipse will make it easier to see.

The sight of the moon "turning to blood" instilled fear and dread into ancient peoples. In biblical days, a lunar eclipse was believed to have heralded the death of King Herod, while in ancient Japan men would lie on

the ground and howl like dogs to ward off its evil effects.

As recently as 1974, 16 people were killed in the Cambodian capital, Phnom Penh, when soldiers fired guns to frighten what they thought was a monkey eating the moon. Lunar eclipses first helped astronomers to work out that the Moon and Earth moved in elliptical, rather than circular, orbits.

## Hendrix women do battle

NICOLE VEASH

Two former girlfriends of the legendary Sixties guitarist Jimi Hendrix faced each other in the High Court yesterday in a dispute over their memories of the star, who died 26 years ago.

Kathy Etchingham, who split with Hendrix in 1969 after a 30-month relationship, wants Mr Justice French to take action against her former rival, German-born Monika Danneman, for alleged contempt of court.

Miss Etchingham, 49, has moved far from the psychedelic days of the late 1960s. Now married to a doctor and a mother of two, she claims Miss Dan-

nenman, 48, is in breach of a legal promise she gave in 1992 not to repeat an allegation that she was an "inventive liar". The undertaking was part of the settlement of a libel action over Miss Danneman's memoirs, *The Inner Life of Jimi Hendrix*, published in 1991.

The allegations of Miss Etchingham's relationship with Hendrix included claims that she would cheat and lie for money and stole the rock star's belongings. The claims resurfaced last year with the publication of Miss Danneman's book to coincide with the 25th anniversary of Hendrix's death.

The dispute first took off in



Hendrix: Killed by drugs

## Handel's lottery memorial

REBECCA FOWLER

Handel's London home, where he composed the *Messiah* on the fourth floor, is to be bought from an insurance company with the help of a £500,000 lottery grant and transformed into a museum.

The terraced five-storey house in Brook Street, central London, where Handel lived for 36 years, was brand new when he moved into it in 1723. It is currently empty, slumbering behind hoarding, and the only clue to its original owner is a blue plaque beside the door.

Since Handel's death in 1759, the house has been taken up by

individual owners, turned into a dental surgery and used as an antique shop. The museum hopes to open its doors to 50,000 visitors as a shrine to the composer in two years' time.

Dr Julie Anne Sadie, director of the museum, said: "Handel was the greatest composer ever to live and work in Britain. Other than his grave at Westminster Abbey there is no memorial to him."

"Composers are commemorated in their homes all over the world, so it's fitting and proper that the house in which he lived for so long should become a memorial to him."

The house consists of two

## Dawn raid on child porn ring

JASON BENNETT  
Crime Correspondent

A huge police operation was launched yesterday against what is believed to be one of the country's largest child pornography rings.

Thousands of videos showing child sex, photographs, magazines and computer discs were seized in at least 35 dawn raids by 21 police forces in England, Wales and Scotland. They are believed to have included pictures of an elderly man with naked boys as young as eight.

Much of the material seized under Operation Aurora is believed to have been filmed abroad in Thailand and Scandinavia. Several people were arrested and questioned.

The suspected vice ring is understood to have been uncovered last November following the arrest of a man by West Mercia police. Address books and correspondence recovered are believed to have listed pornographers around the country who exchanged and sold child sex pictures, videos and literature.

The raids were the culmination of four months' planning by the West Mercia force and the West Midlands commercial vice unit. It follows growing concern about the availability of child pornography, particularly from photograph quality computer graphics.

Yesterday's raid was carried out as far as Devon and Cornwall, Lincolnshire, South Wales and Strathclyde.

In the West Midlands two people were arrested and up to 100 videos and copying equipment was recovered. One person was arrested and material was also seized during four raids in London. About 300 videos were uncovered and three people were arrested in Devon and Cornwall.

All the material seized will be collated and examined by the paedophile unit of the National Criminal Intelligence Service.

Detective Chief Inspector Martin Kitson, from West Mercia, which co-ordinated the raids, added: "The operation once again shows the commitment of the police service to combating child pornography and stopping the production and distribution of such material nationwide."

This is the latest operation against a suspected national network. Last June 11 men were arrested and hundreds of obscene pictures seized in a international police operation against child pornography on the Internet. Nine people in England and Scotland were questioned and 17 computers confiscated during raids that targeted about 40 people in America, Canada, Hong Kong, Germany and South Africa.

Two men yesterday admitted involvement in a child pornography library run on the Net.

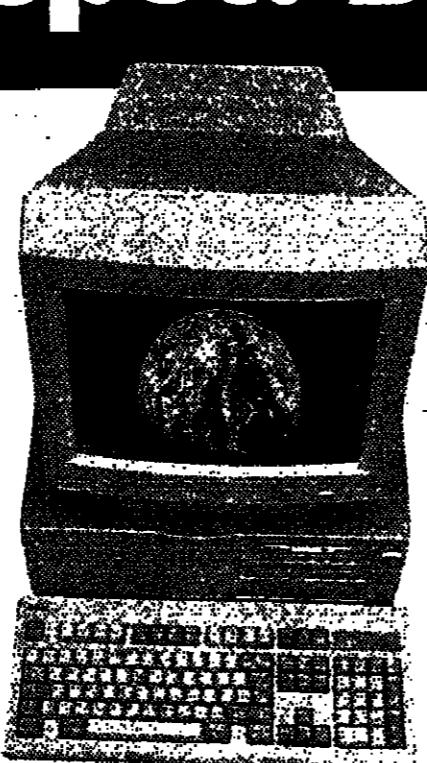
Birmingham Crown Court was told that Alan Fellows, 26, a university researcher at Birmingham University, ran the service, while Stephen Arnold, 24, of Milton Keynes, supplied some of the material.

The pair, who initially denied charges under the Protection of Children Act and the Obscene Publications Act of distributing child pornography through the Internet, changed their pleas after the judge ruled a computer disk could be classed as a photograph and distributed.

The case was adjourned for pre-sentencing reports.

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# Beck child sex abuse duo win £225,000 award

WILL BENNETT

Two victims of Frank Beck, the social worker jailed for child abuse, were awarded a total of £225,000 damages yesterday, paving the way for a flood of similar claims running into millions of pounds.

Jennifer Lesiakowski, 36, will receive damages of £145,000 from Leicestershire County Council, while Debra Barry, 31, was awarded £80,000 at the High Court in Nottingham. More than 30 similar actions are pending against the authority, which was criticised in an independent report for running a chaotic social services department and lacking a child care strategy and firm leadership.

Beck was sentenced to five terms of life imprisonment in 1991 after a court was told that he had sexually abused more than 100 children during 13 years in charge of three council-run children's homes.

The former royal marine died of a heart attack aged 52 in prison in 1994. At the time he was preparing an appeal against conviction and sentence on 17 charges of rape, sexual abuse and assault.

Miss Lesiakowski and Miss Barry were among seven victims who sued the council but the other five reached out of court settlements. The insurers are Municipal Mutual, which last week forced Clwyd County Council to suppress a report into child abuse by threatening to



**Victim and the abuser:**  
Jennifer Lesiakowski, top,  
and Frank Beck, below

cancel cover against claims from victims.

Miss Lesiakowski, who will receive £80,000 for pain and suffering, £40,000 for loss of earnings and £25,000 to pay for therapy, transferred to a children's home run by Beck when

she was 15. She was repeatedly sexually assaulted by Beck and his staff and has since had a drink and drugs problem and suffers from flashbacks of Beck.

Mr Justice Potts said yesterday that she had suffered "torture" at the home and added: "Whilst the defendants did not rape the plaintiff, their negligence permitted Beck to do so."

Miss Lesiakowski later criticised the size of her award and said she hoped to appeal. "I am angry. From the age of 15 they have taken away my adolescence, and they seem to have taken away my future, too."

Miss Barry went to the same home at the age of 15 after problems at home. Staff gave her baby bottles, a toy to carry and read her children's stories as part of what Beck called "regression therapy". This involved returning disturbed teenagers to a childhood state and provided him with a cover for abuse.

Once, after running away, she was stripped and left in a room for six weeks. She suffers from depression, a dislike of physical contact, flashbacks and a tendency to revert to baby-talk. Miss Barry said she was happy with the outcome. "It has been hell for the last five years for me and my family."

Billhar Singh, the women's solicitor, said: "This award recognises what the plaintiffs have suffered."

A county council spokesman said it hoped the outstanding cases could be quickly resolved.

## Aircraft firm plans superjumbo

A new European "superjumbo" aircraft capable of carrying as many as 600 passengers who would tuck into meals from on-board fast food outlets could be in service within seven years.

The consortium Airbus Industrie, in which British Aerospace has a 20 per cent stake, is planning to build up to 650 of the double-decker aircraft over the next 20 years if there is enough interest from airlines.

The Toulouse-based company signalled its intentions yesterday by creating a large aircraft division to accelerate its work on the project, known as the A3XX. Airbus's American rival Boeing is also drawing up plans for a new large aircraft, but the European version will be a completely new aircraft.

British Aerospace, which has built the wings for all Airbus aircraft so far, would be the favourite to provide wings for the new large aircraft.

An Airbus spokesman said yesterday: "We might be able to launch the project within the next two years and have the first passenger flight by 2003."

"We reckon airlines are going to need more than 1,300 aircraft of 500 seats or more over the next 20 years and we would hope to produce about half of them."



**Stockpile:** An armed policeman stands guard over an arsenal of weapons, including 23 rifles, 54 shotguns and 700 knives, before the routine four-monthly destruction of arms by Hampshire police at Portsmouth yesterday

Photograph: PA

## Mother-to-be of triplets stole £20,000 for IVF

A mother-to-be escaped jail yesterday for the theft of £20,000 after a court was told she had stolen the money to pay for fertility treatment that had led to her conceiving triplets.

Michelle Darby, 27, of Bracknell, Berkshire, is due to give birth next week. Mr Recorder Joseph Bootby, sitting at Reading Crown Court, told her the background to her multiple pregnancy left him unable to give her a custodial sentence.

The court was told that she had become pregnant before as a result of IVF treatment and had given birth after six months to a child with spina bifida and extensive brain damage. The baby died.

Darby, a trainee accountant, admitted six charges of theft and six falsifying accounts to a total of £1,053. She asked for a further 153 other offences totalling more than £19,055 to be taken into account.

The judge said: "I am unable to bring myself to send you to prison while facing a triplet pregnancy. Many would shed tears for your history and what you have been through."

Darby told police after her arrest that years of trying for a baby had led to things "getting out of hand".

Isabel Dakyns, for the prosecution, told the court how

## Woman loses lover's £80,000 death benefit

A late businessman's live-in girlfriend was not entitled to receive thousands of pounds in death benefits as a "dependent", even though she had given up her financial independence in response to his wishes, a High Court judge ruled today.

Mr Justice Carnwath said the fact that Carol Slack, of Newark, Nottinghamshire, was living with Keith Hindle-Smith and he paid for their joint expenses was not sufficient to establish that she was dependent on him, and she had given up her financial independence as "a matter of choice".

In a judgment with important implications for the beneficia-

ries of pension trusts, as well as the trustees, the judge ruled that the Pensions Ombudsman had been entitled to find maladministration by the trustees of the pension scheme arranged for Mr Hindle-Smith, who died intestate in August 1992.

In August last year, the Ombudsman ruled the award "null and void" and ordered the trustees to recover the payouts on behalf of Mr Hindle-Smith's children; each trustee to pay the brother and sister £500 each in compensation.

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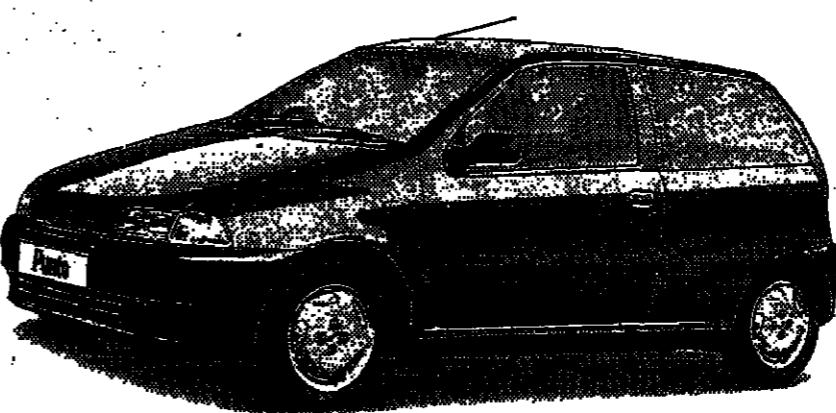
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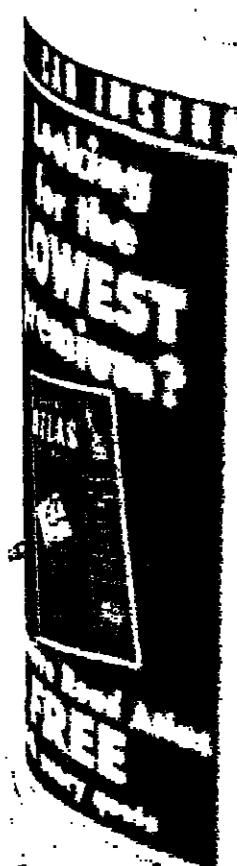


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Teachers' conference: Dunblane tragedy heightens fears

# Action urged over security in classrooms

FRAN ABRAMS  
Education Correspondent

Teachers have called for video surveillance, panic alarms and local committees with strong legal powers to protect them against intruders following the Dunblane tragedy.

The Association of Teachers and Lecturers' conference, meeting in Torquay, heard that teachers felt increasingly threatened because of a lack of security on school premises. The deaths of 16 children at Dunblane Primary School and of head teacher Philip Lawrence, stabbed to death outside his London secondary school in December, were cited as examples of the dangers they faced.

The 150,000-member association has asked ministers to set up School Safe Committees, which would try to solve security problems on a local level. It will press the schools minister, Robin Squire, on the issue when he speaks to its conference today. Strategies might include cutting the number of entrances to a school to prevent intruders.

Peter Smith, general secretary of the ATL, said a Harris poll

carried out on behalf of the union showed 84 per cent of people believed meetings between parents, governors, teachers, police and education officials would lead to improved security.

These commissions should be given statutory powers and should be responsible for producing policies on security and violence. Measures to prevent attacks by pupils might include a "red card" system described to the conference yesterday by David Blunkett, Labour's education spokesman. Under the system, which Mr Blunkett saw operating in a school in Newcastle, children were given a yellow card and punished if they offended. Three yellow cards led to a red card, and parents would be called in.

Mr Smith said: "There is no simple answer to the issue of violence in our schools and colleges. We can only beat this problem if we work together. Schools must not be fortresses."

Sally-Anne Webster, a teacher from Humberside, who joined the profession after leaving the police, said she had never felt so vulnerable as she now did in her classroom.

"As a police woman I was

happy to walk the streets on my own at 2am, to interview people on my own in the police station because I only had to press a button and someone would come to my assistance. I have no feeling of security in the classroom," she said.

Mr Blunkett told the conference that Labour would look for new ways of combating violence in schools. "But while the criminal justice system must pick up the pieces when young people go off the track, the education system can do much to keep our young people on the rails in the first place. Prevention is better than cure," he said.

# Gold wasn't all that glittered for Jackie O

MARIANNE MACDONALD  
Arts Correspondent

The publication of the sale catalogue detailing the jewellery of Jackie Kennedy Onassis has proved what the experts suspected all along — that the former First Lady may have had a lot, but it wasn't worth very much.

The hefty 560-page catalogue offers as many pieces of jewellery, but to the surprise of the uninitiated, many of the earrings, necklaces and bracelets, are — as one might say in polite circles — *faux*.

A classic example is the triple-strand pearl necklace Jackie O is wearing in the famous 1962 photograph showing her laughing as her son, John-John, plays with the pearls.

In fact the necklace is paste, as are the diamonds in the Art Deco-style clasp. Its value is estimated at a mere £30 to £460.

Those wanting a reminder of the woman who was America's closest equivalent to royalty should find dozens of affordable keepsakes at the auction on 24 and 25 April at Sotheby's, New York.

A gilt necklace by Chanel is



John-John plays with his mother's fake pearls in 1962

£300 to £260 and an elegant pair of fake pearl earrings £130 to £200. Even an elaborate collar of fake jet, moonstones, emeralds and mother-of-pearl is a snap at up to £330.

Jackie O was known for her elegant and restrained taste, but a closer look at her huge collection of jewellery reveals her love of dramatic pieces, strong ethnic influences and bold shapes. It would be wrong, however, to imply that the gorgeous array of bright jewels are all within reach of ordinary mortals.

Page 453 yields the *marquise*-shaped diamond engagement ring, by Harry Winston, given to Jackie by her second husband, Aristotle Onassis. The 40-carat Lesotho III diamond, estimated at up to £400,000, came from a stone said to be one of the largest diamonds ever found.

But bidders should beware. Sale prices for celebrity sales tend to far outstrip the estimates.

Last year a pair of Nureyev's worn ballet shoes, estimated at £39, fetched £5,912.



The famous necklace, estimated at just £330 to £460

# Abuse-claim advice 'ignored'

FRAN ABRAMS

Headteachers are flouting government guidelines brought in to protect staff against false allegations of abuse by pupils, a teachers' union heard yesterday.

Despite advice that schools should investigate before taking action, teachers are still being suspended automatically, the Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL) conference in Torquay heard.

The union called for a review of the guidance, as one of its members described how his name was still being kept on police files despite his being cleared of abuse allegations. Glyn Rowlands, a teacher at Peartree Spring junior school, in Hertfordshire, was confronted by a parent after dancing with children at a school disco 16 months ago.

The woman's seven-year-old daughter had told her Mr Rowlands invited her into the dining room to see "Father Christmas". When he was alone with the girl, she alleged, he picked her up and kissed her before telling her she could talk to her parents about it but not to her friends. Fortunately, Mr he said.

## Lecturers' jobs to go

More than 2,000 lecturers' jobs will be lost this year in colleges and universities, a union claimed yesterday, writes Fran Abrams.

The National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education, Nattfe, said there could be more redundancies later in the year because of government funding cuts.

They come on top of 1,500 full-time teaching posts lost last year. Some universities have put forward proposals to cut academic staff though most of the jobs lost would be in colleges, the union said. Among universities

where redundancies are threatened are former polytechnics De Montfort, Derby, London Guildhall, Portsmouth, Teesside, South Bank and Westminster.

Spending per student in further education colleges would drop by some 16 per cent in three years and in universities by 12 per cent, it said.

The colleges will have 3 per cent more students in September but will be expected to make savings.

The Further Education Funding Council said the majority of colleges would receive a funding increase next year.

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## news

# Asbestos victims win compensation battle

The multi-national engineering company T&N yesterday lost its legal attempt to overturn a High Court decision that it must pay a total of £115,000 to two cancer victims who as children played in drifts of asbestos dust around their homes.

The Court of Appeal judges found that the company, which ran J W Roberts in the Armley district of Leeds until 1959, should have known about the dangers of asbestos dust long before the victims were born.

Evelyn Margerison, 70, was awarded £50,000 by the High Court in Leeds for the death five years ago of her husband, Arthur, who had mesothelioma, a cancer of the chest lining.

June Hancock, 60, who was awarded £65,000, is suffering from the same disease.

Lord Justice Russell said in his judgment that T&N had claimed that they could not have known about the dangers prior to 1933. "The true date was much earlier, certainly long before Mr Margerison's birth



June Hancock: 'I think T&N got their just deserts'

representing Mrs Margerison, said that although the judges stressed this was not a test case, it would have an impact on 22 claims that have been lodged with T&N's solicitors.

"Success in this case makes me a good deal more confident about future claims," Mr Pickering said. He added that the judgment was an important ruling in that it was found that injury from asbestos could be foreseen as far back as the turn of the century – not necessarily asbestos or mesothelioma, but some form of injury to the lungs. "This is a significant development in asbestos law."

A spokesman for T&N plc, parent group of the company which owned the Armley factory before 1959, said: "Although there may be other claims in the future arising out of the Armley factory, it is unlikely there will be many. The financial consequences of this decision, and any such future cases, will be very limited." The company had not yet decided whether to

pursue an appeal to the Lords.

Lord Justice Russell said the factory operated from the late 19th century until 1958 making products which needed "very extensive use of asbestos". Evidence was "overwhelming" that asbestos dust was deposited in "enormous quantities" both inside and outside the factory.

William Woodward QC, for T&N, argued that it was not until 1933 that there was knowledge of the potentially dangerous qualities of asbestos. But, the judges said, a Home Office report in 1930 had found that asbestos was linked to many bronchial diseases, and the company owed a duty of care both to employees and people living near by.

Mrs Margerison said: "It's taken six years to get here, and I'm very pleased with the news today. All I hope now is that this will help everybody else in the same position." Mrs Hancock added: "I'm overwhelmed with joy. My thoughts about T&N are unprintable. I think they got their just deserts."

Designer focuses on world of Hollywood movies



Zipped up: Naomi Campbell modelling an Isaac Mizrahi creation. Photograph: Sheridan Morley

## Poster sex helps adverts reach record ratings of disapproval

MARIANNE MACDONALD  
Media Correspondent

Complaints about advertisements soared last year, with posters – up more than double – the biggest culprit.

The Advertising Standards Authority's 1995 annual report, published today, reveals a 124 per cent rise in complaints

about hoardings. Although only 28 poster adverts broke ASA codes, the public are clearly expressing a level of disquiet about the images that confront them," the report said.

The worst offenders were found to be offensive. One for Hamlet cigars, showing the lottery hand of fate giving the finger to someone smoking a cigar, attracted 251 complaints. While

while standing up, and a Playboy TV poster proclaiming "Morgasm" – but both were "considered unlikely to cause serious or widespread offence".

Two other campaigns were found to be offensive. One for Hamlet cigars, showing the lottery hand of fate giving the finger to someone smoking a cigar, attracted 251 complaints. While

the Club 18-30 posters, featuring notorious slogans including "Girls, can we interest you in a package holiday?" under a picture of a man wearing boxer shorts, received 490 objections.

In all, there were 2,288 complaints about 348 posters, of which 2,030 were from people who had found them offensive.

Complaints about adverts from all mediums, including the press and direct mail, rose by 32.5 per cent to a record high of 12,804. The worst advertiser, on volume of complaints, was the British Safety Council, which had 1,763 objections to an advert featuring the Pope wearing a hard hat under the slogan: "The 11th Commandment: Thou shalt always wear a condom." All were upheld.

However, the report claimed standards overall were "extremely high", with 96 per cent of press adverts and 98 per cent of poster adverts complying with British advertising codes.

right away and generally takes a few weeks to complete."

The message in the advertisement was signed by McKenna, whose television show *The Hypnotic World of Paul McKenna* turned him into a household name. The ASA adjudication noted advertisers' point that the tapes were not always successful, but said it considered "that several of the claims exaggerated the benefits of hypnosis".

"As you will discover, hypnosis really works. It's powerful and it's safe ... improvement starts

lines "Immediate improvement" and "Lasting benefits".

It claimed: "I have helped thousands of people, from leading business people to sports champions, to maximise their performance. Now the same is available to you on the most powerful and effective hypnotic tapes I have ever made.

"As you will discover, hypnosis really works. It's powerful and it's safe ... improvement starts

TAMSIN BLANCHARD

Fashion Editor

The clothes looked as though they had all been round the block a few times. Some pieces, like a pearlised brocade fabric made into a maxi skirt, must have been lifted from her wardrobe, but even she would avoid having to wear a cat suit with voluminous cutouts.

The collection was all over

the place and included a fluorescent pink satin disco catsuit. In Mizrahi's world, life is one long 1940s Hollywood movie. But his world has very little to do with reality.

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## Hypnotic tapes claims were inflated

Paul McKenna, the television hypnotist, put his name to exaggerated claims about "powerful hypnotic tapes" his company was selling, the Advertising Standards Authority said yesterday. It was upholding a complaint challenging claims made for the audio tapes in a national newspaper advertisement.

The advertisement was headed "I will give you the power to succeed" and included the head-

lines "Immediate improvement" and "Lasting benefits".

It claimed: "I have helped thousands of people, from leading business people to sports champions, to maximise their performance. Now the same is available to you on the most powerful and effective hypnotic tapes I have ever made.

"As you will discover, hypnosis really works. It's powerful and it's safe ... improvement starts

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## Man gets 14 years for rape of boy

A sex fiend was yesterday jailed for 14 years for the rape and attempted murder of a 13-year-old boy.

Mr Justice Collins told Leeds Crown Court that James Peacock, 49, deserved a lengthy sentence because he was a danger to the public and his victim was still terrified - he barricades his bedroom door at night.

Peacock, of Manningham, Bradford, was found guilty of attempting to murder the boy last month. He admitted the rape.

The court had heard that the teenager was fishing near a bridge in the Yorkshire town of Haworth when Peacock began to chat to him. As the boy packed up his belongings, Peacock produced a knife, grabbed the boy and raped him. When the boy hit him with a stone, Peacock tried to strangle him, punched him and then held his head under the water.

The judge said the youngster, who was found distressed and covered in blood near the scene of the attack last June, had suffered terrible psychological injuries. He told Peacock: "I bear in mind the effect this had on the unfortunate boy. Suffice to say that he is still terrified.

"He barricades his bedroom door at night and he is terrified of sudden and unpredictable movements near him.

"He is afraid that you will be released from prison and attack him again. These fears are likely to remain for some time."

Peacock, a slightly-built man who worked as a forklift truck driver, showed no emotion after he was sentenced.

The judge said that there was no indication of any mental illness and he could see no reason why Peacock committed the "most dreadful attack".

At his trial, Peacock told the jury that he had drunk seven or eight pints during his day out in Haworth, the West Yorkshire town famous for its connection with the Brontës.

He said he had never had homosexual tendencies and he did not know why he had raped the boy. He told the court: "I was just totally disgusted. I couldn't believe I had done it."

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# international

**Bosnia's mass graves:** Local people are trying to conceal the suspected burial sites of Srebrenica's butchered menfolk

## Serbs cover up traces of their killing fields

EMMA DALY

Zvornik

The banality of evil is in full view on a patch of waste ground near a hamlet west of Zvornik, the border between Bosnia and Serbia, despite the best efforts of those who would bury a crime that was too great to hide.

The site, known as Sahinici One, is a target for investigators from the international war crimes tribunal who are in the area seeking evidence to support indictments for genocide and crimes against humanity following the Bosnian Serb capture of the town of Srebrenica last July. The International Red Cross believes more than 3,000 men were executed by the Serbs and buried in mass graves scattered around eastern Bosnia.

Lumps of sodden, churned brown earth on a patch of waste ground between a wood and a railway line, a few tyre tracks and rotting piles of cloth mark the alleged execution site of more than 500 men. They point also to the secondary crime of a cover-up at Sahinici One.

It is clear that the grave, although the alleged grave, although the physical and testimonial evidence is compelling, has been tampered with recently, despite denials by I-For, Nato's peace implementation force. I-For has also refused to despatch any of its 60,000 troops to guard the suspected massacre sites, arguing it is not a military task and that satellite surveillance would suffice.

Perhaps 40 per cent of the site, maybe 30 by 50 yards, is covered with young grass. The blades cover mounds of mud and old vehicle tracks are clearly visible. But the rest of the site has been turned over recently: there are furrows of earth mingled with grass and moss that were not there a few days ago. When reporters visited...

The fresh digging is clear to observers: the other alterations can be detailed by one journalist, David Rohde, an American who visited the site in October on a risky trip - he was caught by the Serbs at another site and jailed for two weeks. Yesterday, in a swift and unerring visit to Sahinici One, he described the changes that have taken place since October.

"Photography much everything I photographed has gone... the hoes and a pair of glasses on the field," he said. Up a grassy slope, we examined what

remained of the pile of jackets and walking sticks Mr Rohde saw last year. Someone had tried to camouflage the debris by tossing old chair cushions and other rubbish on top. But we found numerous strips, torn from one piece of cloth, apparently stained with blood, that match the descriptions of blindfolds of the victims given by survivors of the killings.

We found one ID card, two bank passbooks, a Yugoslav passport and two medical cards in a cursory search; they were wet and illegible, but tribunal experts may be able to decipher names. A scarf seemed to bear large bloodstains, and shoes and a pair of the knitted slippers of the kind worn at home by Muslims poked out of the pile of rubbish. The canes and jackets Mr Rohde described last year were gone.

Three known survivors from Sahinici One described being bussed to a school in the village nearby - where children yesterday milled around the playground - then dispatched in groups, blindfolded, in open trucks, to the killing field.

They say Serb soldiers lined the Muslims up in groups of 10 and machine-gunned them. Two men, one a cripple, hid under the bodies of the fallen. At night, when the Serb guards had left, they escaped through the woods. One carried the other. It took 11 days to reach government territory. The third man escaped alone.

Forensic experts from the international war crimes tribunal yesterday began investigating the alleged massacres after the fall of Srebrenica. They are expected to visit ambush sites and alleged holding centres, as well as some of the nine graves thought to contain the remains of at least 3,000 people. Another 5,000 are still missing from Srebrenica.

Almost identical stories told by a few survivors of the mass executions paint an unspeakably grim picture of the enclave's fate under the Bosnian Serb army commander, General Ratko Mladic, who has been indicted for genocide and crimes against humanity. He was seen at the school by the survivors.

The 45,000 people crammed into Srebrenica during the war survived primarily by raiding nearby Serb villages for food. Local Serbs were killed in such attacks. It is the deaths of those Serbs that General Mladic was apparently seeking to avenge after the fall of Srebrenica.



Gun play: A young boy hangs on the barrel of a destroyed T-54 tank in Grbavica, a suburb of Sarajevo

Photograph: AP

Almost as appalling as the campaign is the implication that hundreds, if not thousands, of local Serbs knew what was happening. The executions and burials did not take place in isolated areas but close to main roads, villages, and houses.

The executions were a huge operation. Many mass graves are located between 30 and 100km from Srebrenica and the UN camp at Potocari, where the desperate civilians vainly sought the protection of Dutch UN peace-keepers after the Serbs attacked the town.

About 15,000 others, mostly men, tried to walk to safety. They were attacked by Serbs and many were captured. Survivors say they were bussed to sites all over eastern Bosnia, lined up, shot, and then dumped in mass graves.

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Almost identical stories told by a few survivors of the mass executions paint an unspeakably grim picture of the enclave's fate under the Bosnian Serb army commander, General Ratko Mladic, who has been indicted for genocide and crimes against humanity. He was seen at the school by the survivors.

The 45,000 people crammed into Srebrenica during the war survived primarily by raiding nearby Serb villages for food. Local Serbs were killed in such attacks. It is the deaths of those Serbs that General Mladic was apparently seeking to avenge after the fall of Srebrenica.

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## Doughty burghers have no truck with the herd instinct

Half-way through the week I learnt that the Tony Garnier hall in southern Lyons, where the centre-right UDF grouping was staging its latest round of interne warfare (otherwise known as a leadership election), had once been the municipal abattoir. Ten days after the outbreak of the "mad-cow" crisis, with Europe suspended between condemnation of Britain's farming practices and the carnivorous Continent's worries about the collapse of its own beef market, this was information I could have done without.

But the citizens of Lyons, eaters of red meat and practically every other animal part for centuries, were unworried. Promenading in costumes through the old quarter in near-zero-temperatures in honour of one of the district's patron saints, they were gearing up for the feasting to come. To be deposited at Beef Street might have seemed to a Briton like a calculated insult but to a Lyonnais it was the start of a splendid night out.

Restaurants named Master Butcher and variations on the theme advertised not just beef in a dozen or more cuts but brains, liver, sweetbread, sausages and tripe. Only one hand-written menu seemed dimly aware of a problem. Rather than beefsteak it had decided on "Charolais steak" (after the cattle breed), with the following clarification: "Animals reared 30km from Lyons in grass pastures." If anything, that made matters worse: you almost felt you knew them.

His predilection for a hearty piece of meat or sausage and a decent Beaujolais is something that has endeared Raymond Barre - former prime minister, elder statesman and Euro-enthusiast - to the Lyons in the nine months since he became mayor. His rounded figure gave him a good start over his lean Socialist opponent, Gérard Colom, during the election, conveying the subliminal message that he might not just be another apparatchik parachuted in from Paris for a nice soft retirement.

Mary Dejevsky

Wired up: Lech Walesa shows up at his old shipyard in Gdansk holding a set of screwdrivers. The former president says he needs the money. Photograph: Reuter

## Bankers hope cultural theme will warm public to euro note

SARAH HELM  
Brussels

European cultural history has been chosen as the main thematic design for the new euro notes, which are due to start circulating in 2002. Europe's single currency planners revealed yesterday. A second theme will depict abstract images.

Other themes, such as transport or wildlife, which were being considered for the notes, have apparently been rejected.

Decisions over the design of the euro notes and coins are being taken in secrecy by the European Monetary Institute (EMI), the central bank-in-waiting, in Frankfurt, and by national mint masters.

The committees of bankers and technocrats who are planning the single currency want to produce designs which will

make the public associate with the money and lose their doubts about the project.

Psychologists and historians have been employed to advise on how this can be best achieved. However, the same committees are nervous about sparking public debate on the design of the currency, for fear of divisive argument and a further backlash against the project. Recent opinion polls have shown growing public scepticism about European monetary union.

Under stiff criticism for failing to consult the public on what the notes should look like, the EMI announced in February that a design contest is to be held in each member state. However, the contest is being conducted in secrecy and only designers nominated by each national central bank may take part. The contest will run for the

next seven months and the judgement on the design will not happen until 1998 on the eve of the launch of monetary union.

The designers will have to work within the specifications of the two themes announced yesterday - "ages and styles of Europe" and "abstract/modern".

For the "ages and styles" theme, features on the seven denominations of banknotes must show a specific period of European cultural history: classical, Romanesque, gothic, renaissance, baroque and rococo, the age of iron and glass, and the age of modern architecture.

The EMI has still failed to decide whether there should be any national symbol on the notes. If there were to be such a symbol it should occupy only 20 per cent of the space and should appear on only one face, said yesterday's report.

## Ill-starred chef falls out of flavour

MARY DEJEVSKY  
Paris

The head chef at the Tour d'Argent, the venerated Paris restaurant which suffered the disgrace of losing its third Michelin star last month, is to be replaced from the beginning of May, it was announced yesterday. The restaurant's owner said he had reached agreement with Manuel Martinez to part company.

Mr Martinez is to be replaced by 44-year-old Bernard Guillaudin, a native of Lyons, with an impressive record in Paris. The owner of the Tour d'Argent, Claude Terrail, said his objective now was to start trying to recover the third star.

Founded in 1852 in the reign of Henry III, the restaurant is the oldest in Paris and frequented by French high society, politicians, and - increasingly - well-to-do foreign visitors.

Except for one year, 1952, it had been awarded three stars since the Michelin Guide's star system was introduced in 1933.

The Guide gives no specific reason for awarding or subtracting a star, and all its inspections are anonymous. This year, however, it appeared to allude to the reasons for demoting the Tour d'Argent by saying that the recession in France was no reason to lower standards, and that "all that counts is what is on the plate, not the trimmings". It was one of only two restaurants in the whole of France to face the indignity of losing a third star.

While the loss of a coveted Michelin star is enough in itself to explain the dismissal of Mr Martinez, another cloud also hung over him. He was one of several celebrated Paris chefs placed under judicial investigation in December on suspicion of having taken kickbacks from a supplier at the Paris wholesale fish market. More than 20 others, including the head chef at the Crillon Hotel's two-star restaurant, were also implicated in the case, which is said to involve monthly payments of between 1,000 and 3,000 francs to each.

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## Walesa cruises into shipyard

ADRIAN BRIDGE  
Central Europe Correspondent

Lech Walesa, the world's most famous electrician, yesterday returned to the Gdańsk shipyard where he made history to take up his old job - kept open for him during the five years in which he served as President of Poland.

It was a surreal home-coming. Escorted by a bodyguard, the now portly Mr Walesa swept through the shipyard gates in a chauffeur-driven black Mercedes shortly after 6.30am.

Instead of getting out the screwdrivers, Mr Walesa's first day back consisted of meeting the shipyard manager, a press conference and a nostalgic return to the hall where the Solidarity trade union was legalised in the historic Gdańsk Accords of August 1980.

"This hall represents for me the best, but also the most difficult moments of my life," said Mr Walesa, the founder of Solidarity and its leader in the struggle which led to the final overthrow of the Communist regime in 1989.

Ostensibly, Mr Walesa, who was given the entry pass number 61878, wants his old job back because he needs money. Although as a former president he is entitled to a car and a bodyguard, he does not receive a state pension - a state of affairs he blames on the "malice" of Poland's government of former Communists.

As an electrician, Mr Walesa will earn a monthly salary of some 600 zlotys (£170), a tenth of what he earned as President and half that earned by his chauffeur. He admits it will not pay the rent, but with a wife and family of eight to support, he says every bit will help.

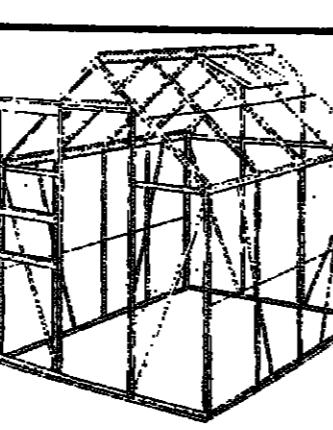
After being given the customary medical examination and an update on the yard's safety procedures, Mr Walesa is expected later this week to join his old colleagues in the workshop where he spent six years fixing electric trolleys for the US government and where he will deliver a series of well-paid lectures.

Mr Walesa promised yesterday that while he is in the US he will draw people's attention to the plight of the Gdańsk shipyard, which is currently heavily in debt and in search of private investors.

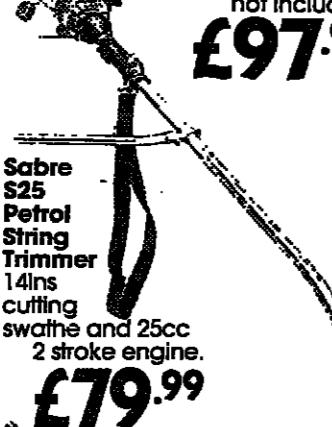




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CHOICE PRICE

## international

## US seeks deal between Iraqi Kurds

PATRICK COCKBURN  
Jerusalem

The US is to make a fresh bid to resolve the simmering Kurdish civil war in northern Iraq which has killed 3,000 people in the last 18 months. Fearful of growing Iranian influence, the State Department is to send Robert Deutsch, its leading expert on the region, to Kurdistan this month to mediate between the warring parties.

If all goes well the US may invite Massoud Barzani, the leader of the Kurdish Democ-

ratic Party, and his main rival, Jalal al-Talabani of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, to Washington to sign an agreement dividing power between them. "The chances of a deal are good because neither side has been able to inflict a decisive defeat on the other and everybody is tired of fighting," says a Kurdish observer.

Mr Deutsch will also want to rescue the US from a growing foreign policy débâcle in Kurdistan. Ever since Iraqi forces departed in the wake of the Gulf war in 1991 it has been pro-

tected by US, British and French aircraft patrolling overhead. But failure of the US to prevent the war between Mr Barzani and Mr Talabani, who control the north-west and south-east of Kurdistan respectively, created a power vacuum which led to the Turkish invasion last year. This in turn provoked Iran into stepping up its efforts to increase its influence.

The CIA also uses Kurdistan as a base for covert operations against Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, financing Iraqi opposition groups. One opposition party, known as the Iraqi

National Accord, has planted bombs in Baghdad which killed more than 100 civilians according to testimony by their chief bomb-maker, recorded on video and first published by the *Independent*. The disclosure about the bombing may embarrass President Bill Clinton, who last month assembled 27 world leaders for an anti-terrorist conference in Egypt.

The US will try to get the Kurdish leaders to implement a peace agreement first worked out by a conference in Ireland late last year. Under this accord

the main Kurdish city of Arbil, currently held by Mr Talabani's forces, will be neutralised. There will also be revision of the crucial customs dues on trade - mostly of oil products - out of Iraq into Turkey.

Even though all sides in Kurdistan want to end the war, the difficulties still to be resolved are horrendous, mainly because of intense competition for influence from neighbouring countries. Iran, with a long common border, opposes the influence of Iraq, Turkey and the US in Kurdistan. It recently persuaded

Mr Barzani to sign an agreement with the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) which is fighting its own separatist guerrilla war against the Turkish government.

This has angered Turkey which might once again send its troops across the border into Iraqi Kurdistan in search of PKK bases. Ankara has always wanted the Iraqi Kurds to act against the Turkish Kurdish guerrilla units. Mr Talabani's party has refused to sign any agreement to do so. But Turkish backing is essential if a new US peace plan is to work and Mr Deutsch

will be stopping in Ankara on his way to northern Iraq.

Almost the only subject on which the US, Turkey, Iran, Syria and the Kurdish leaders are agreed is that they do not want President Saddam Hussein back in control of Iraqi Kurdistan. At the same time Iraq's neighbours want to avoid the formation of a Kurdish state, which would encourage their own Kurdish minorities to seek self-determination. The result of these conflicting pressures has been to turn Kurdistan into a permanent war zone.

## IN BRIEF

## Schwartzkopf calls for ban on mines

Washington — General Norman Schwarzkopf, US commander in the Gulf War, and 14 other retired military leaders yesterday came out in support of banning land mines in what anti-mine campaigners hailed as a breakthrough toward saving countless civilian lives.

In "An Open Letter to President Clinton" 14 generals and one admiral asked the President urgently to "take the lead in efforts to achieve a total and permanent international ban on the production, stockpiling, sale and use of antipersonnel land mines." The weapons are blamed for at least 26,000 deaths and maimings around the world each year. AP

## Election hand over

Cotonou, Benin — President Nicéphore Soglo yesterday accepted the outcome of last month's election and agreed to hand power to the former dictator who defeated him at the polls with just over 52 per cent of the vote. AP

## Car bomb in France

Roubaix, France — For the second time in less than a week, a police bomb squad was called to defuse a car booby-trapped with explosives in northern France, this time in Roubaix, 120 miles north of Paris. On Friday, a similarly rigged car was discovered in nearby Lille. AP

## US jets for Egypt

Cairo — The United States will sell 21 new F-16 fighter jets to Egypt to bolster a key player in Middle East peace, US Defense Secretary William Perry said, adding that Egypt would pay for the jets with part of the \$1.3bn (£844m) in military aid which Washington will give to Cairo this year. Reuter

## Caught on tape

Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan — The government of the former Soviet republic of Kyrgyzstan accepted the resignation of the interior minister, who was taped offering jobs to dismissed police officers. Modalbek Moldashev offered his resignation after a newspaper on Friday reported a conversation Moldashev allegedly had with two officers whose dismissal had been ordered by President Askar Akayev. AP

## Communist charge

Riga, Latvia — Eight former members of the Latvian Communist Party have been indicted for lying about their political activities, the Latvian daily *Diena* reported. The eight, now members of the Socialist Party, are charged with concealing Communist Party activities after the party was outlawed in the former Soviet republic on 13 January 1991. AP

## Monks still alive

Paris — Seven French Trappist monks kidnapped by suspected Muslim militants from their monastery in Algeria last Wednesday are still alive and could be hidden in abandoned mines, said Algerian newspaper *El Watan*. Reuter

## UN investigation

Abuja — A United Nations team has started an investigation into the execution by Nigeria of nine minority rights activists which sparked international outrage and led to sanctions against the country. Sources in the capital Abuja yesterday said the four-man UN team had met with lawyers from the activists' trial. Reuter

## Last orders please

Hanoi — Vietnam's Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet has ordered a clampdown on alcohol consumption, saying it wastes money and time and damages social morality, the *Lao Dong* newspaper said, quoting the Prime Minister as saying "society has a bad habit of excessive feasting and boozing". Reuter

## Final farewell to HK

Hong Kong — The Royal Navy issued a final roll call yesterday to hundreds of locals who joined the Navy as deck hands, cabin boys and cooks. The Navy launched an appeal to local Chinese who once served in the Hong Kong squadron to attend formal ceremonies marking the Navy's withdrawal from the colony next year when Britain hands over to China. Reuter



Peaceful plea: A Palestinian girl in Hebron holding a placard protesting against Israel's closure of the West Bank and Gaza. Photograph: Reuter

## Arafat says referendum betrays Oslo peace deal

PATRICK COCKBURN  
Jerusalem

The proposal by Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, to hold a referendum in Israel on any future peace accord with the PLO, was denounced yesterday by Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, as "completely against what has been agreed upon".

Earlier, Mr Arafat said: "The collective punishments, the refusal to withdraw from Hebron, and the Israeli army's reconquest of areas from which it had withdrawn are a declaration of war against the Palestinian people."

The aim of the surprise announcement of a referendum by Mr Peres, during a visit to Oman, appears to be to outmanoeuvre the right-wing opposition Likud party, by robbing it of its main issues.

Likud was expected to accuse Labour of planning to evacuate Israeli settlements in the occupied territories, divide Jerusalem and allow the return of Palestinian refugees. Mr Peres will now be able to say that Israelis will have a chance to decide about these issues after the election on 29 May.

The exercise may be too blatant an electoral gambit. Yossi Sarid, leader of Meretz, the left-wing ally of Labour, said: "This move is intended to cynically blur all political lines and neutralise the campaign of any substantive discussion and choice."

Labour believes the promise to hold a referendum before withdrawing from the Golan heights, as part of a peace agreement with Syria, has succeeded in defusing the issue in the eyes of Israeli voters.

Mr Peres wants to do the same with the "final status" talks between Israel and the Palestinians, which are due to start on 4 May and end by 1999.

The announcement of the referendum is more bad news for Mr Arafat. But he has little choice, except to hope Mr Peres is re-elected. Binyamin Netanyahu, the leader of Likud, says he would not reverse the Oslo accords, but his interpretation of them would leave Palestinians with little or no municipal autonomy.

At the same time, the sealing

of the West Bank and Gaza — last weekend even handicapped children on an annual holiday outing were not being allowed out of Gaza — is infuriating Palestinians.

The Israeli human rights group B'Tselem in a report describes the suffering of the 2.3 million Palestinians in the occupied territories in the month since the last suicide bombing.

It says almost 1,000 people have been arrested by Israel and it fears that many detainees are being tortured and abused during interrogations.

It says at least eight Palestinians have died because they were prevented from reaching hospitals to get treatment.

B'Tselem also questions the effectiveness of measures such as the demolition of houses of Palestinian activists, saying that 400 houses have been bulldozed or blown up since the start of the *intifada* in 1987 without diminishing Palestinian radicalism.

On the contrary, it says demolitions and the imposition of curfews on whole villages are likely to drive "increasingly desperate Palestinians to perpetrate violent acts against Israelis".

It notes that no action was taken against the family or home of Baruch Goldstein, the Israeli settler who killed 29 worshippers in a mosque in Hebron in 1994.

Israel has also closed nine educational and charitable institutions in the West Bank and in Arab east Jerusalem. Shlomo Dror, a spokesman for policy in the territories, said all nine were closed for "training the next generation of suicide bombers".

In the worst case, we closed an orphanage, because we don't believe teachers have a right to indoctrinate their kids that suicide bombers are heroes that they should emulate."

In many cases, however, the Israeli actions, such as the arrest of 370 students from Bir Zeit university, appears aimed primarily at impressing on Israeli voters that the government is tough on security.

A danger for Mr Peres, however, is that the blockade will lead to another spate of suicide bombs, which might finally ruin his hopes of electoral victory.

## Vatican accused of muzzling maverick

JUDE WEBBER  
Reuter

Vatican City — Maverick Zamorian Archbishop Emmanuel Milingo said yesterday that the Roman Catholic Church wanted to muzzle his unorthodox faith-healing and exorcism ceremonies and that he felt he had to speak out.

Milongo's controversial methods have sparked fierce debate within the Church over how far African spiritual traditions can be married with Catholic liturgical practice.

"Up until now, Milongo has never defended himself, he has always obeyed," the 65-year-old African told a congregation in Rome. "And I've been made fun of too. Now I must reflect deeply. I cannot just shut up."

Milongo, who was ordained in 1958 and said he discovered the "gift of healing" in 1973, admits he does not fit in, but says his unorthodox powers stem from his devotion to Christ. "I do what I do in the name of God."

Chief Vatican spokesman

Joaquin Navarro-Valls confirmed that Cardinal Sodano had written, urging him to stop the ceremonies.

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Experts believe only the most senior officials could have approved such erasures. All communications logs from the regiment in Somalia during the

earlier two months in question have also disappeared, the judge said.

A colonel headed the defence department's information services has said the plan to destroy the documents was approved by General John de Chastelain, who just retired as chief of defence staff in December. General Jean Boyle, who succeeded him, and Robert Fowler, Canada's ambassador to the United Nations who was then deputy defence minister.

The behaviour of the Airborne Regiment during February and March of 1993, when it

was stationed in Belet Huen as part of the UN attempt to restore order in Somalia has blotched Canada's reputation for peace-keeping.

A corporal and two privates have been convicted of torturing and killing a youth. In another incident, a patrol shot and killed two unarmed civilians as they ran away from the Canadian compound.

The regiment was disbanded about a year ago following the broadcast of an amateur video of a ritual in which white soldiers smeared a black member with excrement and led him around on a chain like a dog.

## Army chief 'covered up' torture

HUGH WINSOR  
Ottawa

An attempted cover-up of several incidents, including the torture and death of a Somali teenager while a prisoner of Canadian peace-keepers in Somalia, may have been directed by the chief of the defence staff and the top civilian official in the Department of National Defence. New evidence has come this week before a judicial inquiry investigating the breakdown of discipline in the now-disbanded Canadian Airborne Regiment.

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# international

Back in the USSR: Deal falls short of re-creating Soviet Union but provokes anger on streets of Minsk and concern in West

## Russia and Belarus strike up partnership

HELEN WOMACK  
Moscow

Thousands of Belarusians cast off their national stereotype as passive people and took to the streets of Minsk last night in defiance of their conservative leader, President Alexander Lukashenko, who had earlier signed a treaty with President Boris Yeltsin on integration with Russia. The agreement stopped short, however, of creating a single state.

Yesterday's peaceful rally was smaller than one last month, when Belarusians thought the President was about to surrender their national sovereignty. But it was enough to sour the atmosphere on the day that Mr Yeltsin and Mr Lukashenko launched their Community of Sovereign Republics, which creates the closest economic and political partnership of any ex-Soviet republics.

Because Belarus is in deep economic trouble than Russia

sia, Mr Lukashenko has been pressing for the closest possible relationship. But Mr Yeltsin has been more cautious, lest Belarus becomes a burden.

Under the deal, each side will

preserve its independence, ter-

ritorial integrity, flag and na-

tional anthem. The republics

will co-ordinate foreign policy

and work out common defence

principles. By the end of next

year they aim to have their

economic reforms synchronised

so that a common market be-

comes possible. "This docu-

ment opens a qualitatively new

stage in the history of our two

brotherly peoples," Mr Yeltsin

said at the ceremony in the

Kremlin's St George's Hall. Mr

Lukashenko said Belarus and

Russia were following the ex-

ample of the European Union.

The new mini-community is

open to other members of the

post-Soviet Commonwealth of

Independent States but they

have preferred to keep a greater

distance.

The signing is a boost for Mr Yeltsin, who is running for re-election in June. Under pressure from the Communists, calling for the restoration of the Soviet Union, he will be able to tell voters that his alternative polity of seeking voluntary integration among ex-Soviet republics is bearing fruit.

But he cannot yet say the

same about his plan to end the

Chechnya war, seen as crucial

to his chances of winning a sec-

ond term. Yesterday the

Chechen separatist leader, Dzhokhar Dudayev, wielded his power to influence the election and kept his enemy in the Kremlin waiting for a response to his peace initiative.

Fighting continued in Chechnya despite Mr Yeltsin's an-

nouncement of an end to

military operations and a par-

tial troop pull-out. On Sunday

he said a campaign last month

had left federal forces control-

ling two-thirds of Chechen ter-

ritory, enabling a withdrawal of

units not needed for the fight

against "terrorists". He called

for parliamentary elections and,

surprisingly, offered talks

through mediators with General

Dudayev, whom Moscow has up

to now called a criminal.

But 48 hours after Mr

Yeltsin's speech there was a re-

ounding silence from the

mountains of southern Chech-

nya, where General Dudayev

has hidden since being forced

out of his capital, Grozny, last

year. In a telephone call to Rus-

sian television, one of his fight-

ers said the Muslim Chechens

would not respond officially

until their top leadership had

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Bulgaria protests against new pact

ADRIAN BRIDGE  
Central Europe Correspondent

Thousands of Bulgarians took to the streets of Sofia yesterday to protest against recent moves by Russia to draw the country into a new Moscow-led pact.

The demonstrators denounced comments by the Russian President, Boris Yeltsin, that a recent agreement between Moscow and the former Soviet republics of Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan could be expanded to include "other countries ... perhaps, for example, Bulgaria".

They also called on their own socialist-led government to issue an unequivocal rejection of Moscow's proposal and to re-confirm Bulgaria's essentially pro-Western orientation.

Valentin Vassilev, an MP from the opposition Union of Democratic Forces (UDF), said: "We have to make it clear that we do not want to get sucked into some sort of Soviet Union Mark II."

Last Friday's agreement between Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan essentially concerned the strengthening of economic ties and was an important step towards Moscow's goal of achieving a rapprochement between the former Soviet republics. Yesterday, Russia and Belarus went considerably further, agreeing a bilateral treaty on closer political integration.

The singling out of Bulgaria as a potential future partner provoked uproar in Sofia, sparking speculation that the government - in the hands of what opponents perceive to be Moscow-friendly former communists - may have been involved in secret negotiations.

Government spokesmen have denied that a deal has been struck, but their criticisms of Mr Yeltsin's remarks have been noticeably muted.



Drape expectations: President Yeltsin at the Kremlin, with the Russian flag and a guard, after yesterday's signing ceremony

Photograph: AP



Remaking of the Soviet Union

## This week in THE INDEPENDENT

This week and every week, Section Two has a completely new look, with more pages, new features, a daily radio column and an expanded listings section providing Britain's most comprehensive daily guide to going out.

### in Today

Tony Blair and Bill Clinton: are they destined for a special relationship? Global warming and you: man-made perils that will affect us all. The new Family Life section looks into how to backpack without tears. Do we need... Dennis the Menace: Jim White conducts a personal investigation into whether there is a place in the modern world for the classical naughty boy. Julie Myerson meanwhile takes her naughty boy to the

hairdressers. Plus Network: the complete PC guide. and in Sport

is convinced she has found a treatment to help her son. Also on Tuesday, fashion, architecture, visual arts and media

### on Wednesday

Theatre: "Jekyll: the musical" opened in Bromley last week. What are the chances of a West End transfer. We talk to the backers and review the show. Plus: midweek travel section, your money, finance and law.

In our back pages, Martin Newell, Britain's leading rock poet, and Neil Kerber, one of the country's funniest cartoonists, present their views of the modern world.

### on Thursday

All our regular features, including Dilemmas, John Walsh's column, plus film, education and graduate

plus. In the back pages, William Hartston's history of the world in 10½ inches

### on Friday

24Seven - a new 20-page pull-out-and-keep entertainment and listings section. Including a complete day-by-day planner for the week ahead, plus

seven-day TV, radio and satellite listings, ticket offers and informed comment on the week's highlights. Plus: eight pages of pop and classical music

### Wednesday

Anything for the weekend, sir?

Is there a future for the new male contraceptive?



Jell in 150

# Singled Out?

It's the year 1999. Several European states led by Germany and France are about to go ahead with a single European currency. The British referendum on the issue is nigh. How would you vote? Yvette Cooper weighs the arguments

## THE CASE FOR: GOING IN

**Bulgaria**  
protests  
against  
new pact

ADRIAN BRIDGE  
Centre for  
European  
Studies  
University  
of  
London

So that's it, they've gone and done it. The mark and the franc are to be no more, and British exporters are having to grapple with calculating in the euro instead.

Those in the "Join Up" camp are having a hard time persuading voters in Britain's forthcoming referendum to listen to the rather dull economic arguments for joining the single currency. They want to convince us that the benefits – in terms of lower inflation and higher productivity – will be significant. But that is not their main argument. More important, they believe the costs of staying outside a new "Euro-block", even for a short period, will be immense.

Signing up to submerge sterling within the euro, they maintain, will be good for Britain's macro-economic stability. By that they mean German fiscal and monetary discipline will be good medicine for British inflation. Historically, Britain has a bad record for controlling inflation compared with our European counterparts, and Germany in particular. Inadequate levels of investment and training, and a tendency towards wage inflation, have remained persistent economic problems for decades. Many economists believe that Britain will never make the difficult decisions to tackle those underlying problems with its economic performance while it can still devalue its currency as a way to make its exports competitive.

When British goods become too expensive to compete abroad, the easiest thing to do is let the pound fall in value, so goods become cheaper on foreign shelves. The trouble with that is that it starts the inflationary cycle all over again. If we cannot devalue – because we are locked into the euro – we will have to sort out our inflationary problems once and for all. Tough medicine – but worth it in the long run.

Even those who don't have such a grim view of the British economy accept that joining the euro will make it easier to convince the financial markets that we are serious about keeping inflation low. The financial markets will view sterling as a

weaker currency and a greater inflationary risk outside the euro. As a result, British interest rates would need to be higher. (The technical explanation is that higher interest rates will be needed to offset the risk for investors that inflation will eat into the value of assets valued in sterling.)

Christopher Taylor, of the National Institute for Economic and Social Research, has suggested that interest rates could be 0.75 to 1 per cent lower inside the single currency, with huge long-term benefits for investment levels in Britain.

The impact of a single currency will not be limited to interest rates and inflation. Businesses will feel the benefit directly. Most tangible of all will be the savings to frequent travellers and traders who no longer have to pay middle men every time they change currency.

But as much of Britain's trade is still with countries outside the euro region, the benefits to the country as a whole will not be huge.

David Miles, the senior UK economist at Merrill Lynch, the US finance house, suggests we will save only 0.2 per cent of GDP from the benefits of not having to change currencies when trading in Europe – hardly so overwhelming a benefit that we must join up.

There may be less predictable benefits to businesses, however. The fiercest enthusiasts for a single currency argue that a truly single European market is impossible without it. If firms operate without any regard for national borders, there could be significant productivity gains as they take advantage of huge markets to specialise and make economies of scale. Wider competition should drive down prices for consumers.

The larger risk is that France and Germany will be so annoyed at Britain's failure to join the single currency that they will renege on their commitment to allow us the privileges of the single market. They will form an inner European core from which we will be excluded. Legally, they can't discriminate against British companies, or erect trade barriers against countries

outside the single currency. But covert barriers could be considerable. Britain could be at a disadvantage in any industry where personal contacts make a difference, or where government is involved in procuring contracts.

If trade barriers – no matter how discreet – started to emerge, we could say bye-bye to Far Eastern investment in the UK. The car plants and the electronics factories built in Britain by inward investment from the Far East are aimed at European markets. Future inward investors might switch to the euro countries if they felt Britain was out on a limb.

For the "Join Up" campaign, even dithering and delaying a single currency until a later date is too costly. Britain will be excluded from discussions about the European Central Bank, left out of critical European economic policy meetings and generally left unloved by our European partners. That price might not be paid for a long time but it could be high indeed.

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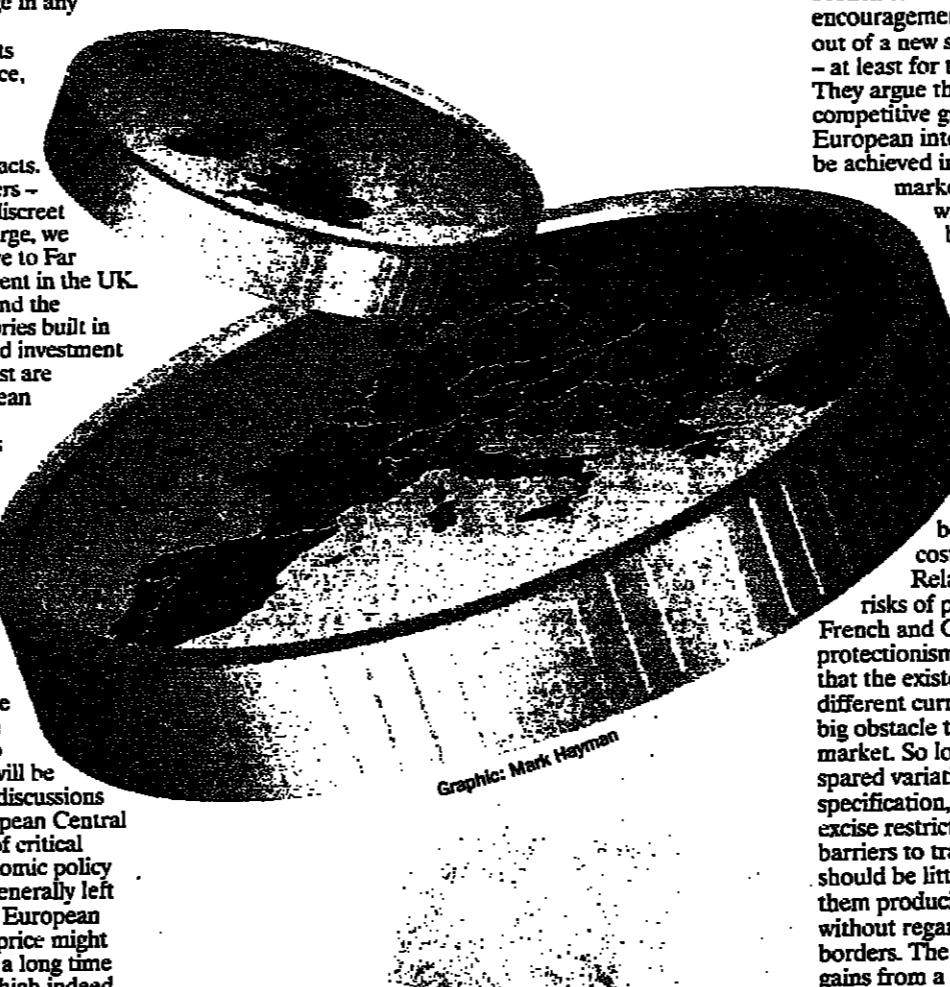
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Graphic: Mark Hayman



## THE CASE FOR: STAYING OUT

The "stay-out" campaign is adamant about the economic case for resisting French and German encouragement and staying out of a new single currency – at least for the time being. They argue that the competitive gains from European integration will all be achieved in the single market anyway without the extra burden of a single currency. At the same time, handing over control of monetary and fiscal policy to Europe could be extremely costly.

Relaxed about the risks of provoking French and German protectionism, they maintain that the existence of different currencies is not a big obstacle to a single market. So long as firms are spared variations in technical specification, customs and excise restrictions, and direct barriers to trade, there should be little to prevent them producing and selling without regard to national borders. The competitive gains from a single currency are therefore – they maintain – insignificant.

The risks, on the other hand, to the overall functioning of the British economy could be considerable. For those in favour of Britain joining a single currency, a single Euro-wide interest-rate policy is a good thing because it prevents Britain indulging in inflation. For the "stay-outs" however, a single Euro-wide interest rate is a clumsy economic tool which prevents different countries reacting to the particular economic problems that beset them.

They have a very good point. Interest rates and exchange rates are useful tools for helping economies adjust to shocks. If countries are affected in different ways by economic changes, they can need very different responses to help them cope. For example, if America goes into recession, demand for British goods is affected far more strongly than demand for other European goods. A cut in British interest rates could ease the pressure on British firms and prevent a recession. But in the new world of the euro, that kind of adjustment won't be possible.

The stay-outs argue that this kind of thing will happen all the time: the British and German economies are so different that they are inevitably beset by different kinds of problems. The right interest rate reaction in one country could mean recession and unemployment in the other.

There is a further reason why Britain and the core euro countries should not be subject to the same monetary policy: they respond in different ways to changes in interest rates. In Britain we are heavily dependent on mortgages. If interest rates go up, mortgage repayments rise, and consumers scream. In 1990 around 10 per cent of household income in Britain was taken up with debt repayments, compared to 3.2 per cent in Germany and 3.7 per cent in France. Businesses have lower debts in Britain than in the euro core countries, but we are more

dependent on variable interest rates. The result is that a 1 per cent rise in interest rates to choke off inflationary pressures in France and Germany could be far more damaging in Britain.

Joining the euro also means losing control over fiscal policy. Under the Maastricht criteria, and under the proposed "stability pact" rules for countries inside the single currency, national governments must not borrow more than a specified amount each year. This gives countries even less freedom to manoeuvre when coping with their distinctive economic problems. The single currency fans have a retort here, however. To make a single currency work, all the euro countries would need to share the burdens of unexpected economic shocks, transferring cash to the country that most needed it. True, there is not yet much political support for taxing the French to give to the Brits, but it is not entirely unworkable. Even without a single currency, Europe is preparing to bear much of the cost for compensating British farmers for the damage done by BSE.

The stay-outs argue that this kind of thing will happen all the time: the British and German economies are so different that they are inevitably beset by different kinds of problems. The right interest rate reaction in one country could mean recession and unemployment in the other.

Initial teething troubles could be costly for everyone involved, and economic tensions between member countries could yet pull the whole thing apart. Of course there are costs to waiting and joining later on. But there are even bigger costs to joining now and pulling out again. Meanwhile a few more years of integration in the single market could lead to greater convergence in the way countries respond to different economic changes, so all the problems generated by a single European interest rate might be reduced. All things considered, they might prefer to wait and see.

**Rooms at the top**  
Fancy a discreet little London pad? Not a bad view – well, the whole of London, actually. And a snap at £40,000. The BT Telecom Tower, one of Britain's most famous landmarks, is for sale. Imagine the one-upmanship as you stroll through Regent's Park. See that little monolith there? Mine, you know. Can't invite you in, I'm afraid.

That is the one snag in the coming transaction. The new owner will not actually be allowed to set foot inside his or her new property, which will come to be a BT communications centre. The tower will be sold on 17 April, with the buyer entitled to an interest payment of £2,500 per annum until the year 2037.

According to Harman Healy Auctioneers and Valuers, the tower does not come with parking space but would make an interesting conversation piece. John Barnett, one of the auctioneers, believes that although the owner of the building will not have any rights over it, it would make a great "trophy property". "The sort of people who'll buy something like this do it just for fun. Some people buy antiques they never use or store out of sight. Others do it with property. I personally own a small island in Scotland."

**Peaks and troughs of Marylebone**  
The Marylebone Mountaineering Club may not face much of a challenge from local peaks, but the club clearly gives its

## DIARY

members a splendid service. Only the most pertinent speakers will do. Last year it ran a "triumphant lecture" on climbing safety, delivered by one Julie-Ann Clyman. Now, this year, members are invited to a talk on walking safety, given by ... Kevin Walker.

### A novel view of women writers

What a shame. Joanna Trollope has cast aside the working title of her new novel. The book, set on a farm, had the admirable working title *Udders*, which had a highly marketable ring about it.

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**Peaks and troughs of Marylebone**  
The Marylebone Mountaineering Club may not face much of a challenge from local peaks, but the club clearly gives its

if you ask me. Now the novel, to be published in May, has the less evocative title *Next Of Kin*.

In an interview to be published tomorrow in *Good Housekeeping* magazine, Trollope philosophises about the art of writing, quoting Dr Johnson's maxim that "nobody but a blockhead ever wrote except for money". Alas, some of her fellow female novelists have not grasped this basic economic fact, it seems. She confides: "I know a clutch of women writers, some of them very



good, who are married to affluent men. And really, all the hand-wringing and brow-clutching that goes on before they write a word I sometimes wish they had to do it to pay the gas bill."

Names please, Joanna. Or we will simply have to speculate about which hand-wringing rich men's wives you could possibly mean.

### Politicians are getting there, but later

For much of 1994 and 1995, successive transport secretaries boasted about their plans to privatise the railways. Optimistically, they committed themselves to having over 50 per cent of the railways in private hands by 1 April 1996. Such promises nearly always come back to haunt politicians, especially if they are made for April Fool's Day. So Brian Mawhinney, John MacGregor and the current secretary, Sir George Young, will have been delighted that no one noticed that only two lines, representing 17 per cent of the railway network, were in private hands by 1 April, which means they missed the target by two-thirds.

### Gin, lord of the ring

After the recent difficulties for Gordon's Gin over whether or not to supply the liquor for the launch of the Denis Thatcher biography, I have some good news for the company. The Moscow State Circus, touring the UK all this summer, has demanded that its contracts be changed from one bottle of vodka to one bottle of gin a fortnight. The performers were introduced to it by their English ringmaster, Chris Baltrop, and have, according to one member, decided that vodka is "like drinking petrol". And they used to be such a patriotic lot.

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## Back in the USSR

Less than five years after the Soviet Union's collapse, Russia is taking steps to bring as many former Soviet republics as possible back under its wing. Last Friday, President Boris Yeltsin and the leaders of Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan signed a treaty creating a "community of integrated states". Yesterday, Russia and Belarus went even further, establishing a union that is intended to have a common foreign and defence policy, a single currency, united transport and energy systems and much more.

Mr Yeltsin contends that this agreement does not undermine the sovereignty of Belarus. He even suggests it will merely create a sort of Eurasian equivalent of the European Union. He is fooling no one. This will be a Moscow-led union. Only token symbols of independence will be left to Belarus if the treaty is implemented in full.

The larger issue is whether the latest accords are but a prelude to a Russian attempt to recreate the Soviet Union or – since history never exactly repeats itself – a new union of states subservient to Moscow. This is not as implausible as it seemed even six months ago.

Restoring the Soviet Union is one of the central ingredients in the programme of Gennady Zyuganov, the Communist leader who is poised to defeat Mr Yeltsin in June's presidential elections.

Mr Yeltsin's eagerness to rush through the treaties can be interpreted as an attempt to steal as much of Mr Zyuganov's electoral thunder as possible. But it is not just a tactical ploy. It is certainly not economically inspired: a reconstituted union would probably cost Moscow money. Like most Russians, Mr Yeltsin has never found it easy to embrace the idea that states such as Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan, where ethnic Russians have lived for generations, should be genuinely independent. It is no accident that Russians coined the term "the near abroad" to describe the former Soviet republics. The phrase implies a unilateral Russian right to circumscribe the independence of these states.

Still, we must not lose sight of the fact that Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan signed the new treaties freely and without Russian coercion. Belarus has never developed a strong sense of separate

nationhood and, in the absence of firm Western support for its independence, it was virtually inevitable that it would drift back under Russia's shadow. Kazakhstan, with a large ethnic Russian community in northern regions bordering Russia, and a potentially troublesome China to its east, has good reasons to forge closer links with Moscow. It also makes economic sense for the former Soviet republics of Central Asia to deepen their ties with Russia.

So far, so good. But in other parts of the former Soviet Union, Russia has applied pressure on independent states to dilute their sovereignty. This is particularly true in Transcaucasia, where the Kremlin manipulated internal political and ethnic disputes to bring Azerbaijan and Georgia back into a Moscow-led fold. Last year Russia persuaded Armenia and Georgia to grant it the right to maintain military bases on their soil. In Moldova, which borders Ukraine, Russia agreed to pull out its troops. But it would like to keep a military presence there as a way of reminding Ukraine never to threaten Russia's interests.

Clearly, Russia's leaders suffer from a temptation to exert pressure on neighbours whose independence they have not fully come to terms with. The West must make it clear to the Russian leadership that such pressure will be wholly unacceptable if it is used to coerce the Ukraine into joining the Russia-Belarus union. The Ukraine is of much greater significance than other states that have already drifted back towards Moscow. It has a population of more than 50 million and prodigious agricultural resources. Ukraine's leaders show no sign of wanting their state to be transformed into a satellite of Moscow. They must be free to decide their country's destiny.

This is equally true for the Baltic states and the former Communist countries of eastern Europe. In an extraordinary and rather alarming remark last Friday, Mr Yeltsin suggested that Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania could sign the treaty uniting Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. Perhaps he had a memory lapse: the independence of eastern Europe is absolutely not up for discussion. If he did forget, Western leaders should remind him of this point as politely, but firmly, as possible.

## Howard's wayward

"We face a clear threat from terrorism," said the Home Secretary yesterday. Yes, but do also face a threat from Howardism? The way the Government has rushed to amend the Prevention of Terrorism Act to extend police powers to stop, search and cordon has Michael Howard's fingerprints all over it.

There may be a case for these new powers being rushed through at breakneck speed. The IRA is restocking and moving weapons into place to resume bombing. That seems to be the gist of the intelligence briefing. There is new danger from small, easily concealed explosive devices. It may be that existing police powers to detect them are insufficient. None of us would stand in the way of the police doing their job of making us more secure against a genuine terrorist threat.

But the way Mr Howard has gone about this opens him once again to the accusation of moving too fast, without thinking openly and deeply enough about the consequences. Today he is expected to announce plans for a tougher sentencing regime that will further antagonise the judges and require a massive prison-building programme.

As for stop and search, the police record for using such powers "on suspi-

cion" is mixed, to say the least. Where are the guarantees that a law intended to be used against Irish terrorists will not be amended on the streets as a catch-all permission to stop anyone. Till now police roadblocks and cordons have been set up under common law; now, it seems, there is a need to put them on a statutory footing. Why the rush?

Michael Howard's reliability as an interpreter of statute law is testified to by the number of court appearances he has recently made. Howard's proposals need to be subject to the most intense scrutiny. The House of Commons' job is to make law that sticks because it is based on popular consent, stout principle and practicability. To test proposals coming from the executive, time is needed for debate and reflection. No convincing case has been made for these extra police powers to be legislated for as quickly as they have been. For Tony Blair and Labour to join the Tories in the lobby may be an act of bipartisanship for which they will earn electoral reward. Labour wants to present itself as capable of government, understandably so. But it must remember its current job is that of Opposition. And the Opposition's job is to stimulate debate and subject legislation to the test of argument.

## Capitalism sucks (but only on mints)



MILES KINGTON

such thing as a non-minty toothpaste. All toothpastes taste of mint.

They are not all actually labelled mint; some are labelled "original flavour" and others are called "fresh". But mint is what they all taste of.

So I ended up buying a tube of juvenile Punch and Judy strawberry-flavoured toothpaste and taking that back for my son's inspection. He quite liked the idea, so we are sticking to that flavour for the time being, but when you think that the whole idea was to get him to use grown-up toothpaste, it isn't exactly the ideal solution.

Now, before toothpaste fans write in and tell me that you don't have to have minty paste because you can get interesting Swiss products in health-food shops, which taste of rosemary and coriander and things, I would like to say that I have tried these interesting Swiss toothpastes tasting that do not taste minty. There is no

thing as a non-minty toothpaste. All toothpastes taste of mint.

The dental-hygiene industry has obviously decided that mint is the flavour for dental products and that's that. I don't feel strong enough to argue the peculiar British habit of having mint-flavoured vinegar as an accompaniment to roast lamb – a tradition that has done far more to make us a laughing stock in Europe than BSE ever could. If the industry has decided that mint is for teeth and gums, it has also decided that pine is the flavour for room-freshener.

I believe it is possible to make your room smell of synthetic lemon, but the most common flavour, by far, is synthetic pine. Of course, when a room has recently been sprayed with pine room-freshener, we don't walk into it saying, "Ah, the lovely smell of pine pine!" We go in choking and saying, "Blimey, the stink of room-freshener!" But we would

be surprised if it wasn't a pine-derived smell.

Similarly, it's lemon for washing-up liquid. Any shampoo. You don't get many minty washing-up liquids. You don't get many pine-flavoured shampoos, either. All aftershaves smell more or less the same – of that basic aftershave smell.

There is much less choice today than we have ever had. Let me give you an example: when I first went to New York, as a teenager, I was bowled over by the choice of chewing-gum flavours. Most American gum was made by a firm called Adams, and you could buy it in sour apple, grape, blackjack (which was licorice) and many other fruit and candy flavours. I, who had been brought up on nothing but spearmint (mint again) and juicy fruit, thought I was entering a new era.

Now, 30 years later, if you want some chewing gum, you can buy mint-flavoured gum and juicy fruit, and um, that's about it. You can buy minty toothpaste, and that's it. You can get pine room-freshener, and that's it. You can get lemon washing-up liquid, and that's it.

The next time you hear someone saying that capitalism is good because it gives you choice, just remember these things.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Ask science the wrong questions and you get no answers

Sir: Your editorial on science and BSE (30 March) is so loaded with misconceptions that it is hard to know where to begin. You contrast the recent achievements of the physicists with the inability of science to answer our questions about Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease.

"It's all very well", you say, to explain the origin of the universe, "but if science cannot help us to explain why and when a hamburger is unsafe, we are bound to ask what use it is". This classic statement is followed by another: "We have not called them [the scientists] to account ... but we should". For exactly the same reasons Newton and Faraday should have been called to account. They were preoccupied with gravitation, planetary orbits, electricity and magnetism in a world beset by smallpox, plague, cholera and much more.

The refutation of your argument is contained within your own article. You quote Sir Peter Medawar's dictum that "Science is the art of the soluble", i.e. scientific success depends on asking questions that can be answered.

But it should have been obvious that this cannot happen without the techniques that make it possible. Newton and Faraday, for all their genius, could not have answered questions about infectious disease. These were not in the category of "the soluble", nor would they be for decades, until scientists could stain bacteria with the new dye-stuffs of the

organic chemist and look at them through the improved optics of the high-powered microscope.

If rational decisions are to be taken, the current problem needs to be seen in perspective. We are faced with a new disease, recognised only months ago. We do not know the infective dose, or the relationship of susceptibility to age, and we are not even certain of the mode of transmission.

Since the incubation period is 5-15 years, a picture of the epidemic – and indeed whether there is one at all – will emerge only over a period of years. The technology does not exist that would make these problems "soluble" in weeks or even months and it does not help for you to complain that "after days (I) of deliberation, the top scientific brains ... are no closer to telling us for sure what risk we might face ... and what we should do to make ourselves safe".

JOEL MANDELSTAM  
Emeritus Professor of Microbiology  
University of Oxford

Sir: Your leading article of 30 March exhorts us to "adopt a more balanced, informed and realistic attitude toward the scientific world". That would be easier if the ignorance of science expressed there was less widespread.

Science is a way of thinking: it tries to answer questions about how we and our surroundings tick. It does so by using evidence

to test ideas on what the answers might be (hypotheses). Where evidence does not fit, the hypothesis is modified. If gathering that evidence takes much effort and time, and is open to the charge of being "grindingly boring" to some, then so be it.

Science does not have a set of answers waiting for every question. Moreover, there is never a sure answer, only one that is useful, so long as it works.

Science cannot tell us when a hamburger, or anything, is "safe", because nothing is safe. Life is risky. The problem lies in assessing the size of risk in any activity.

With the possible (but unproven) link between BSE and CJD, is the risk of lifelong driving to the supermarket to get beef greater than the risk of contracting CJD by consuming that beef? Or greater than the risk of early death from cigarettes or alcohol given at the same time?

JOEL MANDELSTAM  
Emeritus Professor of Microbiology  
University of Oxford

Sir: Your leading article of 30 March exhorts us to "adopt a more balanced, informed and realistic attitude toward the scientific world". That would be easier if the ignorance of science expressed there was less widespread.

DAVID PEDGLEY  
Crownmarsh, Oxfordshire

Sir: There is a world of difference between science and the Science discussed by your correspon-

### Shaping a woman's life

Sir: Yvette Cooper is right ("Sex war turns into a battle of the mums", 30 March) to "urge a truce between women over home and work" and to point out that increasingly we do both things – work-at-home and job-work, some consecutively.

What needs continuous emphasising is what a convenient, woman-shaped, working life looks like. It goes: education, full-time job, children, part-time job, full-time job, retirement. Part of the problem today comes from the idea that "work about the house" and "work with one's own children" isn't actually "work" and so, because it is not recorded or marketed, it doesn't get into the statistics. Which is absurd and messes up all our thinking about "economic activity" and "productivity" and about employment in general.

I wrote a so-called Open Forum pamphlet for the SDP about 10 years ago, called *Men and Women: Equal but not Interchangeable*, which the feminists in the party hated because it wasn't at the time proper to suggest the sexes might not be interchangeable. Now that it is even being suggested that men and women may be two species in a permanent symbiotic relationship, perhaps it is all right to talk about sex differences, and the "woman-shaped working life" can safely be advocated? Whatever sex or species they are, men might in fact like it too.

Certainly, if we started thinking sensibly about "work", and abandoned statisticians' Procrustean definitions, we might all be better off.

Mrs ELIZABETH YOUNG  
London W2

### Abstinence works

Sir: Ian Hargreaves ("We need to take a hard look at drugs", 28 March) referred to the goal of abstinence as "wholly unrealistic".

The alternative is for the Government to accept responsibility for all child abuse inquiries (including Cwylld) and for ensuring that these are adequately independent, rigorous and public.

CATRIONA WILLIAMS  
Director, Children in Wales Cardiff  
JOHN REA PRICE  
Director, National Children's Bureau London EC1

### Abuse findings could be made public

Sir: Children in Wales and the National Children's Bureau are deeply concerned at the decision by Cwylld county councillors to suppress publication of their independent report into child abuse in children's homes in Cwylld (report, 27 March).

The report was commissioned with the best of intentions that the full facts should be known. However it appears that there is a conflict which could apply to any local authority, as lawyers and Cwylld's insurance company have apparently warned that to publish the report could lead to substantial claims against the authority.

The Secretary of State has powers under the Children Act to order public inquiries into child abuse scandals; the local authority is also under a duty to act on the advice of the Secretary of State. The Cwylld inquiry appears to have been relatively cheap

compared with the Cleveland and Staffordshire inquiries and would certainly be a lot cheaper than individual litigation taken by all those who suffered abuse.

Surely the most efficient use of public money, notwithstanding the financial consequences for the insurers, is to publish the report so that the lessons learned from the Cwylld report are published.

The alternative is for the Government to accept responsibility for all child abuse inquiries (including Cwylld) and for ensuring that these are adequately independent, rigorous and public.

CHRISTOPHER HILL  
Kew, Surrey

### Air of desperation

Sir: Des Wilson (letter, 1 April) omits to mention that BAA continues to increase the number of transfer passengers at Heathrow. Jaded passengers, having nothing else to do, "demand", it seems, yet more shops. And we are asked to accept that this is the reason for BAA's grotesque application to build another shopping centre/airport next to Heathrow. Perhaps BAA have not realised that the tide is turning against monster shopping centres.

CHRISTOPHER HILL  
Kew, Surrey

### The missing egg

Sir: Why is it that we eat hens' eggs, bantams' eggs, ducks' eggs, goose eggs, quails' eggs, guinea fowl's eggs, fishes' eggs and chocolate eggs – but never turkeys' eggs? Do we? Have I been missing out?

JUDY ALLEN  
Liverpool

18 MILES KINGTON

such thing as a non-minty toothpaste.

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Now, before toothpaste fans write

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to have minty paste because you can get

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food shops, which taste of rosemary

and coriander and things, even if they do have even more ridiculous names.

JULY 1996

## BRIEF

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## obituaries/gazette

## Richard Hill

The "Condominium", the Anglo-Egyptian government of the Sudan, is not one of the best-remembered episodes of British colonial history, but it is not too much to say that the long life and work of Richard Hill will ensure that it is never forgotten. Although the seminal part of his life was spent in the Sudan Civil Service, his scholarly interest ranged far further, from the earliest records of the tribes that first inhabited the area to the sad events of recent times, which he viewed with characteristic understanding and compassion.

Richard Leslie Hill was born at Ramsbury, Wiltshire, in February 1911, a month too late (to his chagrin) to call himself a Victorian. He owed this sense of history to his father, also, like all first-born sons of Ramsbury, Richard Hill. The village shop, Hill's Stores, had been in the family for at least a century, and was kept by his formidable grandmother Thirza. Her son had married Margaret Leslie, daughter of a notable Edinburgh Episcopal minister, to whom his grandson bore a striking resemblance.

He went to the village school, but in 1913 the family emigrated to New Zealand, settling at Birkenhead, North Island, and he went to Auckland Grammar School. He had intended to join the army, but his failure to pass School Certificate Maths meant that both the Australian and, surprisingly, the Bolivian armies turned him down.

The firm faith that he inherited from his mother suggested an alternative vocation: he worked his passage back to England and entered St Augustine's College, Canterbury, to train as an Anglican Benedictine. St Augustine's sent him to St Edmund Hall, Oxford, where he read History, became Secretary of the Oxford Union and took his BLitt. His thesis was on "Jortism and the People", but if politics beckoned, Hill realised that he had no resources: rather, as eldest son, it was his duty to earn enough to bring his family back to England. He borrowed the money to pay back St Augustine's from a Ramsbury benefactor: another Ramsbury connection found him a post in the Sudan Civil Service, in the Government Railways.

In 1927 Hill went to the Sudan, where he held various posts in the railways, serving as railway liaison officer during the war with the rank of *bimbashi*; he retired in 1945 and was seconded to University College, Khartoum, as senior lecturer in history. This translation, at first surprising, was official acknowledgement of two decades of wide-ranging curiosity about every aspect of the land in which he lived, its history, climate and geography, social

organisation, agriculture, manufacture, ecology, communications (naturally), its public health. Characteristically, when he was appointed in 1927, his first action had been to enquire at the Bodleian Library for a bibliography of the Sudan: learning that there was none, he compiled it. *A Bibliography of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan from the Earliest Times to 1937* was published in 1939.

Hill's academic career now took off. He retired from the Sudan at the statutory age in 1949, and became lecturer in Near Eastern History at Durham University, a post he held until 1966. While there he was responsible for one of the most remarkable initiatives by any British university, the creation of the Sudan Archive.

Hill realised that the sources for writing the history of the country existed, if at risk from loss or dispersal. He knew where they were, and a public appeal was launched in 1957.

His skill and pertinacity in pursuing documents of all sorts from all quarters of great variety, ranging from the

papers of Sir Reginald Wingate (Governor-General 1899-1916)

to the handing-over of notes of district commissioners, records of tribal customs and letters home. All was grist to the mill, and with the flour from it Hill began to make history as, literally, he baked bread – the loaves he made were delicious.

In 1951 Hill had published his *A Biographical Dictionary of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan*, the first expression of his belief that history can only be understood through the lives of the people – all of them – that make it. During his nine years at Durham he had the means to produce a much augmented second edition of his *Dictionary*, besides his much-reprinted monograph *Egypt in the Sudan, 1820-1881* (first published in 1959), a biography of Slatin Pasha and *Sudan Transport* (both in 1965).

Three visiting professorships followed, at the University of California, Santa Barbara, Simon Fraser University, British Columbia, and Ahmadu Bello University at Kano, Nigeria, where he was also dean of the

history faculty and acting dean



Hill: an aura of precision

of Islamic Studies. In 1991 Durham University gave its "servant of the Sudan Archive" (his phrase) an honorary DLitt, the day crowned by happy competition with the Chancellor, Peter Ustinov, over the number of languages that each could speak.

Richard Hill spent the rest of his life at Oxford, where he had met his wife Julianne, whose own scholarly work was devoted to Politian. They made a touching pair, working together in the Bodleian, she sitting beside him even after she could no longer work. A series of articles and editions of unpublished texts on the Sudan culminated in *A Corps d'Elite* (1995), written with Peter Hogg, the history of the regiment of Sudanese zouaves raised by Napoleon III as a bodyguard for the Emperor Maximilian in the belief that they were immune to yellow fever, which had proved disastrous to Lessop's first attempt on the Panama Canal. Hill followed up each traceable member of the regiment, abandoned in Mexico: some stayed on, others spread round the Caribbean, some found their way home.

In all things, Hill observed punctilio. If that makes him sound pompous, he was not: who else could footnote the Azende tribe, "The Northern Sudanese were confident that the Azende were cannibals and called them by the suggestive onomatopoeic name Niam-Niam"? But his tall, spare figure, latterly bald, his neat moustache, gave him an aura of precision, conspicuous also in his fine italic hand. To all, he observed unfailing courtesy. It flowed from him naturally, like the perfect charity to which it was the natural expression. In his own field omniscient, he gave knowledge freely; what he did not know he sought humbly, for humility was as natural to him as charity.

One of the writers in *Modernisation in the Sudan*, a volume of essays dedicated to Hill in 1985, recalled meeting the king of Tombou, who produced the typescript translation (a characteristic gift) made for him by Hill of the accounts of earlier European travellers, adding, "Do you know Richard Hill? He could tell you many things about the olden days here." Such exchanges must have taken place many times over the last 70 years. "Men's work cannot be separated from their lives" was his own summation: his life was long; his work will last even longer.

Nicolas Barker

**Richard Leslie Hill**, colonial civil servant and historian, born Ramsbury, Wiltshire 18 February 1911; married 1937 Julianne Condon (died 1988; four daughters); died Oxford 21 March 1996.



Photograph: Clive Barda

## Paul Harrhy

In a career as a lyric tenor that lasted only a little over 10 years, Paul Harrhy always marked his performances with the individual stamp of his own personality.

A very good actor, he also disclosed the essential qualities of the characters he sang. Exuding in 20th-century and contemporary music, he created several roles in new operas at the Almeida Festival. The light incisiveness of his voice, and superb diction, both in English and Italian, made him fine exponent of 17th- and 18th-century music. The Romantic style of the 19th century was mostly outside his range, although he was a good Mime and an excellent Loge in the City of Birmingham touring Opera's *Ring Saga*, or Ringlet as the compressed cycle was nicknamed.

Trained in London at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Harrhy sang the title-role of Cavalli's *L'Egisto*, going mad most convincingly, as well as Fenton in Nicolai's *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, while still a student there. The following year he made the first of several visits to Batignano for Musica nel Chiostro, appearing in Rinaldo da Capua's *intermezzo La Zingara* as the Gypsy's brother and a dancing bear.

In 1981 he toured with Opera 80 as Tom Rakewell in *The Rake's Progress*; though his rake sadly lacked moral fibre, he de-

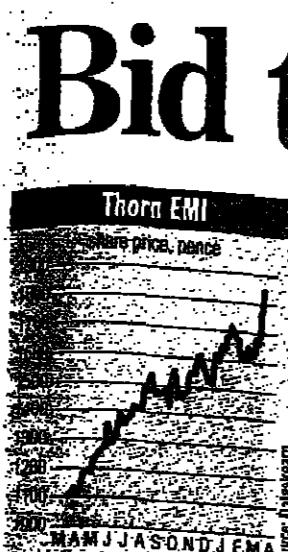
scoined the primrose path in a most stylish manner. That year he sang one of the Shepherds in Monteverdi's *Orfeo* at a Promenade Concert and also the smuggler El Remendado in *Carmen* with Scottish Opera.

His later roles for Scottish Opera included a seductive study of the Novice in *Billy Budd*; a good-tempered Pedrillo in *The Seraglio* and a grumpy Mime in *Das Rheingold*, a forecast of his double role in the Cobito's *Ringlet* in 1990.

In 1987 Paul Harrhy took a plunge into Romanticism with the role of Raimond in Chelsea Opera Group's rousing concert performance of Tchaikovsky's *The Maid of Orleans*. He also sang Sam Kaplan, another sensitive young man, in Kurt Weill's *Street Scene* at a charity performance at the Palace Theatre in aid of London Lighthouse, and *Pylades* in *Iphigenia*. Opera Factory's compressed version of Gluck's two *Iphigenia* operas.

He first appeared with English National Opera in 1987 as the High Priest of Amon in Philip Glass's *Akhnaten*, followed in 1988 by Valzacchi in *Der Rosenkavalier*, a role which offered him splendid opportunity for comedy, and Jane in *The Makropoulos Case*, yet another ultra-sensitive young man. However, his most successful role that year was Truffaldino in Prokofiev's *Love for Three Or-*

anges



MATTHEW HORSMAN  
 Media Editor

Shares in Thorn EMI soared yesterday on talk that a bid for the company's music subsidiary, EMI, was imminent. Dealers said interest in the stock was frenzied, as a range of blue-chip names, mostly American, were tipped to be preparing an offer.

Time Warner, the US media conglomerate, and Sony, the Japanese electronics and entertainment company, topped the

list of potential buyers. The shares, which have nearly doubled in a year, closed last night at £18.45p, up a spectacular 140p on the day. Thorn-EMI had no comment on the speculation last night.

Analysts said the price rise was linked to Thorn EMI's plans to demerge its highly profitable music division this summer, in a bid to enhance shareholder value. Hoare Govett, the investment bank, estimates the break up value to be £19.50 a share.

Preparations for the demerger are almost complete, with approval received from most tax jurisdictions. The demerger is expected to cost about £70m in administration fees.

"It makes sense for a bidder to wait until the company has done all the hard, complicated work, and then step in with a bid," one analyst said yesterday.

The Thorn division, which

operates rental shops worldwide, is worth an estimated £2bn, according to analysts' estimates. EMI, one of world's leading music publishing and recording companies, is particularly strong in Europe. It owns the Virgin Music Group, which publishes the Rolling Stones, Smashing Pumpkins and Simple Minds. *Worth about £2bn, it could fetch far more from a buyer eager to expand in the European market.*

"EMI has always had a few problems in the US," one analyst said. "A logical buyer would be one of the existing US music companies, which could im-

prove margins at EMI in the US and get the European market too."

"Among the candidates are MCA, the film and music conglomerate controlled by Seagram, the Canadian distilling and media company, and Sony, which owns Columbia Pictures and a lucrative music business.

But other analysts said Disney, the US entertainment giant, was a more likely bidder, as it does not yet have a significant presence in the music business. As a major film producer, Disney

could be expected to benefit from the additional sales generated by its soundtracks.

Another possibility is Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation, one of last remaining global media empires that does not control a major recording label.

Si Colin Southgate, Thorn EMI's chairman, has said in the past that any bidder would have to offer a "maxi price" to derail the demerger plans. He has dismissed speculation in the past, and has been the key architect

of the demerger plan, viewing it as the logical way forward for the group.

Under the demerger, Sir Colin would be chairman of both groups, while James Fifield, president of EMI, would continue in that role.

Senior executives, including Mr Fifield and Sir Colin, stand to make millions out of share options. At last night's price, Sir Colin's potential gain is just under £1m.

Comment, page 21

## Bid talk sends Thorn EMI shares soaring

NIC CICUTTI

Woolwich, the UK's third largest building society, was last night facing an unprecedented crisis as its chief executive Peter Robinson resigned unexpectedly, less than three months after taking office.

The society, which recently announced plans to seek a stock-market listing worth up to £3bn, refused to comment on the reasons for Mr Robinson's departure.

Sir Brian Jenkins, chairman of the Woolwich, said: "Neither Mr Robinson nor the society believe it to be appropriate to comment further at this stage. The normal business of the society is entirely unaffected. Its assets



Robinson: Departure after only three months in office

and funds remain unimpaired."

Mr Robinson's place will be taken once more by Donald Kirkham, who retired as group chief executive in January.

Sir Brian added that Mr Kirkham had the full confidence of the society's board until a new chief executive could be found. He also confirmed that its flotation plans would continue.

Mr Robinson's departure, after 32 years at the Woolwich, would be a severe setback for the society's plan to de-mutualise next year. He took over in January, replacing Mr Kirkham only a week before the society announced its proposals.

It is believed that the meeting yesterday followed a emergency

gathering of Woolwich directors over the weekend. Yesterday's all-day board meeting followed mounting speculation on the City.

Some reports suggested yesterday that Mr Robinson, aged 54, has found it hard to develop a proper working relationship with Sir Brian Jenkins, former Lord mayor of London and City accountant, who became chairman last year after retiring from accountancy firm Coopers and Lybrand.

Mr Robinson is widely viewed as the architect of Woolwich's decision to seek a listing on the Stock Exchange. The decision to float follows that of Halifax Building Society, which merged with Leeds Permanent last year.

It also came in the wake of a separate decision by Cheltenham & Gloucester, another top-10 building society to agree takeover terms by Lloyds Bank. Alliance & Leicester, the nearest rival in terms of size followed suit within days of the Woolwich announcement. Last month, the Woolwich reported profits of £33m in 1995, up 10 per cent on the year before.

If the flotation goes ahead, more than 3.5 million members of Woolwich Building Society, Britain's third largest, look set to share a windfall worth up to £800 each.

Both the society's 600,000 borrowers and its 3 million plus share account holders will each be handed shares worth up to £1,000 in return for backing the flotation, due in August next year.

But Mr Robinson made headlines when he dubbed as "carpetbaggers" about 30,000 new savers who opened their accounts shortly before the announcement was made. He added that they would not share in the shares free-for-all.

Woolwich's 17 directors, including Mr Robinson and Sir Brian Jenkins, who received a total £1.4m in payments during 1994, are likely to benefit from generous share-option packages, similar to those awarded to newly listed corporations.

It is believed that the meeting yesterday followed a emergency



Building for the future: Neville Simms, chief executive of Tarmac, surveying a Wimpey construction site at Gracechurch Street in the City of London, taken over as part of the two companies' recent asset swap. Accounting a slump in profits from £107.2m to £20.3m, after heavy exceptional write-offs, Tarmac promised the City sizeable cost cuts from

the deal which saw it pull out of housebuilding to focus on heavy building materials and construction services. Tarmac's shares rose 8.5p to 119p as investors focused on the expected benefits of the integration. Investment column, page 20

Photograph: Edward Webb

## Ofwat warns of future South West clampdown

MARY FAGAN  
 Industrial Correspondent

Ofwat, the water industry watchdog, warned of a clampdown on South West Water's future prices because of "shortcomings" in the company's performance.

The regulator also said that North West Water "has some way to go to rank amongst the best performers in the industry" and that a report on Yorkshire Water's handling of the drought would be issued within weeks.

Investigations by the regulator were started last year following concerns that the three firms are falling behind the

rest of the industry in meeting certain standards.

Ian Byatt, director general of Ofwat, said yesterday that South West's delay in improving sewage treatment "will be taken into account in setting price limits at the next period review". The statement adds to the uncertainty surrounding South West, which is in the throes of management changes and faces potential takeover bids.

Mr Byatt also warned that while North West Water "will not require any corrective action", the company must demonstrate further improvements before the periodic price review in 1999.

Mr Byatt said: "Price limits were set in 1989 and 1994 with the expectation that companies would complete certain programmes to achieve higher quality standards and improvements in their level of service. I made it clear my intention to scrutinise company performance carefully and take action where I am not satisfied."

He said that his investigation into Yorkshire, which has been criticised over its handling of the drought, has yet to be completed. He said decisions on Yorkshire would "be based on the assessment of fact" and not on the internal enquiry which the company has undertaken.

The new services, which include a channel dedicated to repeats of Granada programming such as *Coronation Street*, are

## Continental telecoms 'don't want Mercury'

France Telecom said yesterday that neither it nor Deutsche Telekom would want to buy Mercury Communications in the event of a merger between BT and Mercury's parent, Cable & Wireless, writes Mary Fagan.

The flat rejection of any interest in the UK firm followed rumours that Deutsche Telekom, with which the French group has strong links, was BT's preferred buyer for Mercury.

The German company has already dismissed rumours as "pure speculation", but its partner went further yesterday by saying: "France Telecom, Deutsche Telekom and Atlas (the joint venture) do not have any interest in buying Mercury."

The divestment of Mercury, BT's main rival, would be inevitable if the £35bn merger with C&W is to proceed.

The companies admitted last week that their advisers were in talks but have since refused to comment.

Shares in BT fell by 7p to 375.5p yesterday while C&W closed down by 9p at 529p.

NatWest Markets said the disposal of Mercury and C&W's mobile operation could raise around £1.5bn and that a merged BT and C&W could generate £4bn pre-tax profits in the year to March 1998.

However, it is understood to see himself as a whistleblower, who drew the activities of Nick Leeson, the Singapore trader who caused Barings collapse, to the bank's attention several months earlier. Nine former Barings executives are said to be facing disciplinary action by the SFA.

The SFA will be questioned by the Treasury and Civil Service Select Committee over its move to discipline Ian Hopkins, former head of group treasury and risk at Barings.

Other former executives who may be called before the committee include Andrew Tuckey, deputy chairman at the bank, and Peter Norris, former head of securities.

Mr Hopkins is thought to have approached the committee after a move by the SFA to ban him from working within the industry for up to three years and make him pay costs thought to be of £10,000 for his role in the bank's collapse.

However, it is understood to see himself as a whistleblower, who drew the activities of Nick Leeson, the Singapore trader who caused Barings collapse, to the bank's attention several months earlier. Nine former Barings executives are said to be facing disciplinary action by the SFA.

One MP, who would not be named, said: "The SFA has a lot to answer for. I hope we will be calling on them to appear before the Committee and tell us why they have taken this prejudiced stand against a brave whistleblower like Hopkins."

A deadline for them to accept the SFA's action passed on Friday. Two executives, including Mr Hopkins and Ron Baker, former head of derivatives trading, are believed to be opposed to the decisions taken against them. Mr Baker's penalty is believed to be similar to Mr Hopkins'.

Barings was brought down in February last year by losses of some £860 million run up by Leeson in the high-risk derivatives market in Singapore. He is now serving a six and a half year sentence in the state's Changi Prison after admitting two counts of cheating.

Barings was rescued by Dutch banking group ING. In April last year, 20 key Barings staff based in Singapore, Tokyo and London left the company.

Although Mr Hopkins and Mr Baker were both criticised by the Board of Banking Supervision inquiry into the bank's collapse, they were not held to be responsible for what happened by a separate inquiry ordered by the Singapore Ministry of Finance in October 1995.

The Singapore report said: "In our view the collapse might have been avoided if Mr Hopkins' concerns had been taken seriously and acted upon promptly."

## Granada subsidiary launch aimed at ITV consolidation



New boss: Duncan Lewis to oversee expansion

MATTHEW HORSMAN

Granada, the media and leisure giant, yesterday announced the launch of Granada Media Group, a new subsidiary to hold the company's extensive media assets.

The revamped operating structure is aimed at consolidating Granada's ITV licences, its pay-TV investments and its 11 per cent stake in BSkyB.

As revealed in the *Independent* last week, Duncan Lewis, formerly the chief executive of Mercury, the telecoms competitor to BT, will be GMG's new chief executive. He will

oversee the expansion of Granada's media interests in the continent, Asia and the US.

Charles Allen, Granada's chief executive, said the announcement did not mark a first step in splitting the company's operations in two. He added that he would continue to spend about 40 per cent of his time overseeing the TV business, despite his involvement in the time-consuming integration of Forte, the hotels and restaurants group, which Granada bought earlier this year following a bitter two-month battle.

Steven Morrison, managing director of Granada's ITV division, said: "We are launching a new aggressive strategy aimed at extending Granada's broadcasting interests".

Granada also owns 36 per cent of Independent Television News, the news provider for ITV, as well as a stake in GMV, the morning commercial ITV service.

Underlying his personal involvement, Mr Allen will today meet executives of BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster, to seek wider distribution of Granada's eight new pay-TV services, grouped under Granada Sky Broadcasting, a joint venture with BSkyB.

The new services, which include a channel dedicated to repeats of Granada programming such as *Coronation Street*, are

currently planned for transmission on the 1-D transponder of the Astra satellite, which only reaches an estimated 30 per cent of potential viewers in the UK.

Mr Allen is believed to be interested in widening the potential audience for the services, which will be the first pay-TV channels launched by an ITV company.

Granada also plans to begin detailed negotiations on the sale of at least £1.5bn worth of hotel assets, including the Meridien chain, and will soon post sales memoranda to about eight "pre-qualifying" bidders.

The Runnymede Hotel, situated on the banks of the Thames, offers guests the utmost in comfort in each of the 171 rooms. The Health and Fitness Spa is outstanding, the facilities include an 18m swimming pool, sauna, gymnasium, and beauty therapy rooms. Two lucky winners, each with one guest, will enjoy a weekend of luxury with full use of all facilities plus a relaxing back massage and mini facial.

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STOCK MARKETS					
Indices			Falls		
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Dow Jones	7604	+0.5	4348.70	4015.30	3.41
Nikkei	2160	+0.5	1899.00	1816.60	8.85
FTSE 250	4348.70	+21.80	2098.77	1678.61	3.05
FTSE 35	1877.20	+6.00	1864.59	1469.23	3.79
FT Small Cap	2098.77	+2.47	1864.59	1638.00	2.15
FT All Share	1855.90	+5.68	1683.60	1632.08	3.30
New York	5647.47	+9.75	2160.08	1973.40	0.72
Tokyo	21800.08	+39.69	11594.99	10073.39	3.30
Hong Kong	11144.54	+217.80	2252.42	2233.68	1.96
Frankfurt	2501.22	+12.13			

## business

## Asset swap paves the way for better times at Tarmac

## THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

There were few surprises in Tarmac's full-year figures, which had been pretty comprehensively flagged in the trading statement earlier in the year. The movement in the shares, up 8.5p to 119p, underscored the market's relief, however, that the asset swap with Wimpey appears to have paved the way for better fortunes in the second half of the 1990s than the first.

The numbers look a disaster at first blush, with pre-tax profits collapsing from £19.4m to £10.7m to just £20.3m, a dismal return on sales of almost £2.5bn. But what is important in investment terms is that the market was already aware of a £3.7m one-off loss on the sale of Tarmac's bricks business and had a pretty good idea that the company was planning to write off the whole of the £30m value of a power station contract dispute.

The underlying £10m fall in profits, moreover, came from the housing operations which are now Joe Dwyer's problem at Wimpey.

Profits there fell from £61.1m to £58.3m as building costs and selling expenses soared, pushing the trading margin down from 11.9 per cent to 7.3 per cent.

There was no price inflation and the number of houses built re-

mained static, so higher costs wreaked havoc with margins. While construction remains a complete disaster, in keeping with the rest of the British contracting industry, the core quarrying and building materials businesses appear to have pulled themselves together after the collective price-cutting madness of two or three years ago.

Profits from aggregates jumped from £45.5m to £63m, a 38 per cent rise, despite a negligible increase in turnover. Although volumes of dry and coated stone, sand and gravel, and ready-mixed concrete continued falling, prices rose by between 8 and 16 per cent last year.

Encouragingly, the company is confident of pushing through more rises to recoup some of the 30 per cent real decline since prices last peaked in the 1980s boom.

Tarmac is not out of the woods yet, as was evidenced by the sharp fall in return on sales from the new professional services arm and contracting, which managed only £8.2m of profits from its turnover of almost £1bn. There are signs, Neville Simms, chief executive says, of an upturn - strong order books and positive margins in the regional building business - but builders have been prematurely optimistic many times

before in the last five years. That said, the market warmed yesterday to the increasing evidence of cost-cutting potential from the Wimpey housing for aggregates asset swap.

Taking out the loose cannon of quarry products pricing that Wimpey had become also augurs well for

margins. Getting out of cash-hungry housing was plainly the right thing to do and the company's commitment to the private finance initiative will undoubtedly pay off eventually.

Against that backdrop, a forward price/earnings multiple of 10.7, on the basis of 1997's forecast profits of

13.7 per cent. That sort of performance holds out the promise that the industry's stocks are now moving into better balance, raising hopes that the cycle may at last be turning up, which should benefit premium brands such as Grouse.

But Highland is by no means in the clear yet and yesterday's results show how bloody things have been. Pre-tax profits slid 6 per cent to £22.2m in the six months to 29 February, after the operating result nudged ahead 1 per cent to £13.8m.

Grouse, which contributes 45 per cent of Highland's bottom line, had a thin time of it, with profits sliding 1.5m in the UK after it was forced to join in the hefty "promotions" offered by its rivals.

This sort of discounting is something that has been eschewed by Highland in the past, but its prices clearly moved seriously out of line last year, causing its market share to slump to 12.1 per cent last spring.

Management did well to recover the lost ground in the second half, without having to discount at Christmas, and end up with a maintained market share of 13 per cent in the first half.

At the same time, Grouse has seen sales increase in each of the first three months of 1996 and has raised its market share from 13 per cent to 15 per cent of the non-pub market south of the border and last year's acqui-

sition of Black Bottle from Allied Domex should help.

But even if the British market, which fell 6 per cent last year, is now on the turn, it remains uninspiring, with supermarkets still calling the

brand in the Far East.

The problem for investors is that Highland continues to be run like a private company.

It is not clear why the company

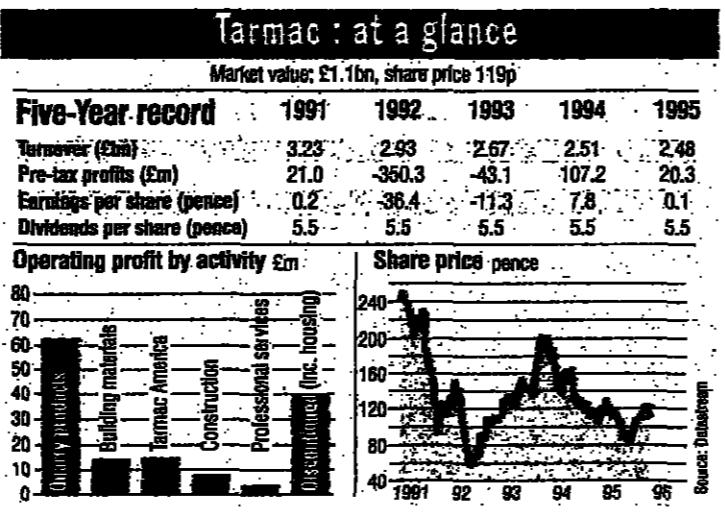
needs a 26 per cent stake in

Macallan-Glenlivet or the cross-

shareholding in Remy Cointreau and the unquoted Robertson & Buxton group to cement trading relationships with those companies. But their presence constitutes a potent poison pill against predators.

Greg Middleton's forecast of profits of £42m this year would put the shares up 8p at 352p. on a forward rating of 16.

High enough.



## Exports give

## Highland a lift

After years of cut-throat competition in the whisky market, Highland Distilleries is at last seeing glimmers of hope.

Orders for new fillings, the whisky

Highland sells to other blenders to

put into their own brands, are up 31

per cent.

More importantly, last month

Highland pushed through a 30p

price rise on its mainstay Famous

Grouse brand taking it to £12.29 a

bottle, thereby maintaining the pre-

mium over the best-selling Bell's

owned by Guinness.

At the same time, Grouse has seen

sales increase in each of the first

three months of 1996 and has raised

its market share from 13 per cent to

15 per cent in the first half.

Highland sees scope to increase its

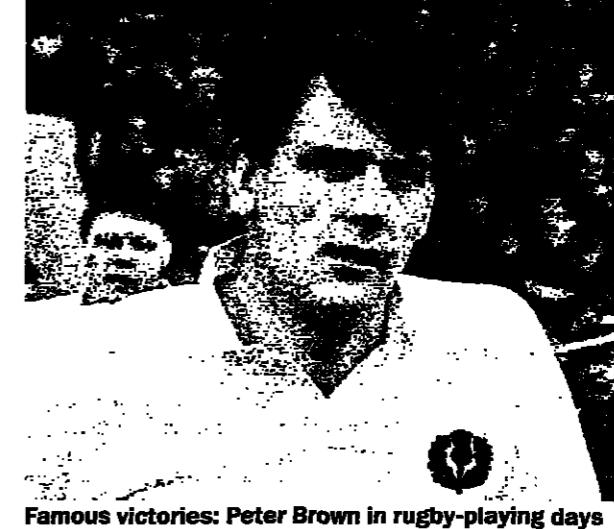
share of the non-pub market south

of the border and last year's acqui-

## CITY DIARY

JOHN WILLCOCK

## Tiddler scotches opportunistic carpetbaggers



Famous victories: Peter Brown in rugby-playing days

The idea of "carpetbaggers" who put small amounts of money into lots of different building societies in the hope that they will receive a cash windfall when the societies convert into banks is well known.

But it has taken Scottish Building Society to turn it into a nationalist issue. The Edinburgh-based society, which has 20,000 customers and £100m in assets - a tiddler compared, say, with Nationwide - says it "has closed its doors to would-be carpetbaggers from south of the border opening small accounts in the hope of gaining a bonus in the event of the Society converting to a plc or being taken over".

Furthermore, the society's chairman is Peter Brown, the former Scottish rugby captain who led Scotland to three famous victories over England. Mr Brown declared: "We may be a relatively small society but we are financially very strong and our real members would be appalled if we were to convert or be taken over. To paraphrase the words of the Flower of Scotland we are "sending this army of speculators homeward fae think again".

Scottish Building Society is one of five that have thrown out customer activists. So far he has joined 52 societies.

Mr Hardern, a freelance butler, founded a group called "Members for Conversion" last year to try to persuade societies to ditch mutualism, thereby triggering bonuses. Yesterday Mr Hardern said he had also been chucked out of Norwich & Peterborough, National Counties, Portman and Market Harborough. "I'm going to exhaust my internal complaints procedures before I go to the Building Society Ombuds-

man," he warned last night. Under the rules he needs to persuade only 100 members of each society to petition for a "special general meeting", and he can then force the board to explain why they don't want to convert and trigger the payouts.

A spokesman for Scottish Building Society described this attitude yesterday as "quite stupid ... it is disturbing and expensive. There's no way we could afford to convert."

Congratulations to Will Hutton, the popular newly-elevated editor of the *Observer*, who committed his very first round of sackings on Monday. But hang on a minute - whatever happened to the caring, sharing philosophy espoused in his best-seller, *The State We're In?* Isn't this exactly the kind of beastly capitalist behaviour he despises? Whatever, it suggests a new slant perhaps on what a "stakeholder" economy is: you risk getting one between the shoulder blades.

Lille, hosting the G7 jobs summit this week, has been keen to tell the world's press about the merits of its surrounding region, Nord Pas de Calais. Its information pack suffers a little in the translation: "Population: dense and young". This does not mean the place is full of Gallic Beavis and Butt-heads. What it means is that the area has 319 inhabitants packed into each square kilometre, of whom 38 per cent are under 25.

The American delegates to the Lille summit expressed concern yesterday that many of the new jobs produced by their economy recently were of the low quality "burger-flipping" variety. Apparently the latest Washington joke goes: "Bill Clinton has created 8.4 million jobs - and I've got three of them."

The people who insure your racehorses can now insure your house and your family jewellery as well. Charles Hamilton is joining the board of the British Bloodstock Agency to beef up its insurance side, which started off when customers needed to insure the horses they were buying and selling. Mr Hamilton, 41, will remain managing director of bloodstock brokering house buyers for mortgages, and then expanding into the mortgage business in its own right. We can insure the other possessions of horse owners - the farm, the wife's jewellery. We are also using the client list to sell other products. Direct Line can relax, however. There are no plans to sell insurance by phone.

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July 1996

## business



## COMMENT

**'Under Sir Colin Southgate, Thorn EMI has been transformed from a many-faceted collection of underperforming also-rans into a finely tuned Formula One racer'**

**A**longside pharmaceuticals and financial services, music is one of the industries Britain is meant to be good at. We may have failed in automobiles, shipbuilding, and many other areas of heavy manufacturing, but in popular music we still reign supreme. Well, almost, anyway. Now it looks possible that our flag-carrier company in this industry, Thorn EMI, is going to succumb to a takeover bid. And in all probability, it will come from a foreign concern - Japanese (Sony), German (Bertelsmann) or American (Time Warner or Disney).

Over the past few days, Thorn's shares have soared. Normally in such circumstances, the Takeover Panel would require the company to make a formal statement to confirm or deny a takeover approach. Silence can be taken to mean that Thorn is not aware of anything that might cause its share price to rise in this way. Even if there are no current talks, however, nobody is going to believe that this soon-to-be-demerged company is anything but one of the hottest takeover targets in town.

Does it matter if Thorn EMI is absorbed into some giant international, but foreign controlled, multimedia empire? Yes, of course it does. It matters because if those taking the decisions owe no allegiance to Britain - to its culture, institutions, economy and people - then ultimately they will act against those interests or at least in ignorance of them.

The world is a fast-shrinking and chang-

ing place. The big-is-beautiful philosophy of business is enjoying a revival and multinationals are no longer generally thought the force for evil they once were. Even so, in no other developed country would it be remotely possible to acquire a world-beating company like Thorn EMI. It is nothing short of a national disgrace that the stock market believes it possible here.

Under Sir Colin Southgate, Thorn EMI has been transformed from a many-faceted collection of underperforming also-rans into a finely tuned Formula One racer. Following the mantra of our age - shareholder value - Sir Colin has focused the business on its core music interests. With demerger value - Sir Colin has made Thorn EMI, one of the big five music companies in the world, into a sitting duck for a takeover. It is as if the company has been deliberately groomed to become part of a larger entertainment empire.

"Focus" may be the buzz word for most companies nowadays, but in media, entertainment and telecommunications it is very definitely out. Here the fashion is for "convergence", for the coming together of what in the past have been seen as very different businesses. The groupings that will succeed are those with access to the best copyright and distribution across a range of different entertainment products. Having focused his company so expertly, Sir Colin should be

given the opportunity to build his own more broadly based entertainment and publishing group - not sold down the river to the highest bidder. But don't expect either the City or the politicians to listen.

**Byatt gets a second chance**

**T**he water watchdog, Ian Byatt, may have given North West Water a reprieve as far as its quality standards and handling of last summer's drought is concerned. But can he afford to be so generous when dealing with the huge savings North West plans to

squeeze out of its merger with Norweb? It was obvious from the start that the merger had more to do with financial engineering than customer service but nobody quite expected the deluge of goodies that would flow in the direction of shareholders when the dividend tap is turned full on.

North West justified the fancy price paid for Norweb on the grounds of the £95m annual savings it could bring out of the combined business, largely by shedding jobs. We now know that savings will be 40 per cent higher than that by the turn of the century, generating £500m to fund a payout which shareholders could see rising by 11 per cent in real terms a year.

Remarkably the regulators did not intervene when the deal was first concocted to redirect some of this cash to customers. Mr

Byatt was comforted by a side letter from North West containing a woolly pledge to look after customers if savings should prove higher than forecast.

His opposite number at Offer, Professor Stephen Littlechild, was content, meanwhile, with assurances that the two regulated businesses would be ring-fenced to prevent cross-subsidies or a situation arising where customers who refused to pay their electricity bill found the water cut off. Despite United Utilities revealing the true size of the cash pile locked away in its balance sheet, the regulators have still not blinked.

It is always difficult for regulators to intervene once a price regime has been set but Mr Byatt has proved he could do it when the water industry's compensation scheme was not delivering the goods. When Hyder, the union forged by the merger of Welsh Water and Swalec, follows United Utilities' lead in the next few weeks by spelling out its cost savings, Mr Byatt has another chance to act.

**US levels telecoms playing field**

**M**erger mania in the US telecoms market is a sure sign of things to come around the world. Technological advance and commercial logic are finally being released from the shackles of national regulation, and the winner, if all turns out as expected, will be the consumer. The UK telecoms market

has already had a taste of what deregulation can bring: BT has 150 licensed competitors, including a range of cable operators whose US owners have for some years now been able to do what their own government prohibited, offer both broadcasting and telephone services. The passage of the telecoms bill in the US means the same convergence can start to occur there as well.

But much remains to be done. BT still overwhelmingly dominates the UK market, despite more than 10 years of deregulation. In Europe, the EU is pushing for the liberalisation of telephony by 1998, but some national governments continue to drag their feet. Several technical issues have yet to be resolved - notably, the right of all service providers to have fair and open access to national telecoms networks.

More crucially still, there are bottlenecks galore in the global telecommunications system, where big operators run what amounts to a cartel for international connections, akin to the agreements that govern air traffic routes. All this needs to be swept aside, allowing companies to offer their services on the basis of price and quality. Advances in technology ought to bring the price of phone calls down to next to nothing; companies will earn their money not so much through the provision of infrastructure but on tailored, consumer products and services. The sooner truly liberalised markets can be created, the faster the benefits will accrue to the end-user.

## EMU under threat, says George

**MICHAEL HARRISON**

The launch of a single European currency in 1999 is under threat because of the recent slowdown in Europe's economies, the Governor of the Bank of England Eddie George conceded yesterday.

Speaking after a meeting in Frankfurt of the European Monetary Institute, the forerunner of the planned European Central Bank, Mr George highlighted the poor record of member states on curbing public deficits - one of the key convergence targets of the Maastricht Treaty.

This has been caused by higher than planned levels of public spending as governments in several European Union economies have been caught in the trap between lower tax revenues and burgeoning social security payments.

The EMI's annual report, published yesterday, accepts that in the large majority of the 15 EU member states, public deficits were well in excess of the levels needed to meet the criteria for a single currency.

This is certain to be seized on by critics of economic and monetary union, who argue that the drive towards a single currency will only produce more hardship.

However, the EMI said economic difficulties across Europe, caused by high interest rates, German wage settlements and slowdown in US growth, were no justification for postponing the measures needed to achieve economic convergence.

Alexandre Lamfalussy, the institute's president, said: "The present economic slowdown in Europe does not provide a justification for postponing necessary consolidation measures."

He also argued that fiscal consolidation could be achieved without causing further economic slowdown, provided the focus was on cutting public expenditure rather than raising taxes.

The institute's comments were being seen as a clarion call to supporters of EMU to redouble their efforts to sell the concept across the Union in what is likely to be crucial year on the path to monetary union.

Under the Maastricht timetable, member states are due to decide whether to submit to a single currency by the beginning of 1998.

RUSSELL HOTTEN

The National Lottery hit profits at the pools and retail group Littlewoods, which yesterday warned that the company had yet to feel the full effect of Britain's favourite gambling pastime.

Annual profits at Littlewoods fell from £16m to £97.3m, capping a controversial year in which the UK's largest private company was embroiled

in boardroom turmoil and takeover speculation.

Littlewoods, two years into a five-year restructuring plan, dampened suggestions that more executives were about to leave the company, saying that it was now performing strongly.

Although plans to introduce a mid-week National Lottery would hit the company, other business would see a trading improvement, Littlewoods said. "With a bit of luck, the good

should outweigh the bad," said Bill Huntley, chief executive. "I would like to think that 1995 is the point from which we grow."

The National Lottery knocked 26.8 per cent off Littlewoods' pools sales, which totalled £623m in 1995.

Operating profits slipped to £23.7m from £26.5m. Mr Huntley said that Littlewoods, owned by the secretive Moores family, had settled its differences and was confident that

the existing management could carry the company forward.

Littlewoods' Home Shopping mail-order business increased its market share and sales but was hit by a sharp rise in bad debts. Operating profits at the division slipped to £60.7m from £73.9m. The company's index catalogue business saw operating losses almost static at £7.3m against £7m in 1994, although sales rose 9.5 per cent.

Banknotes and coins for the single currency, the Euro, would then be introduced in January, 2002, with national banknotes ceasing to be legal tender in July that year.

The EMI said the factors which contributed to the slowdown in the second half of 1995 were likely to be temporary. It also noted that levels of consumer demand, which

had been expected to support an economic upswing, remained weak. However, it forecast a pick-up in growth in 1996, due to rising domestic demand.

## Cassidy swings axe in shake-up at Liberty

**TOM STEVENSON**  
City Editor

Denis Cassidy, the former British Home Stores and Bodington chief, swung the axe yesterday at Liberty, the prestige department store and fabrics group. Nine months after taking over as chairman, he saw off chief executive Patrick Austen and three other board members, promised lower profits for the year to January and a radical restructuring of the group, and warned that the dividend would be passed.

Mr Austen, who took over as chief executive in April 1993, was employed on a three-year contract on a salary of £192,000 last year. The terms of a severance payment have been finalised but Mr Cassidy was not prepared to disclose the amount of compensation, save that it would be less than Mr Austen's full contractual entitlement.

His replacement will be Ian

Thomson, former head of Sears' British Shoe subsidiary and with 16 years experience of retailing in South Africa.

Liberty, which started life as

a family-owned business in 1875, was traded on the stock exchange in 1993, with profits before tax and exceptional items would not amount to more than £2.1m for the year to January, compared with £3.6m in the previous period. The size of a proposed "substantial" except-

ional charge to cover the reorganisation of the group remained under wraps.

Mr Cassidy said the review, which has yet to be finalised, would aim at revitalising the Liberty brand internationally and at developing the retailing format at the group's flagship store on Regent Street.

The abrupt departure of Mr Austen suggests a deterioration in relations since he welcomed Mr Cassidy to the group nine months ago, saying: "Clearly he will be part-time as he has other responsibilities. He will have authority within the company, but he is not going to be running the company or any of its divisions."

In fact Mr Cassidy has taken a tight grip on the running of Liberty, with the resignation of three directors, Tony Salem, John Pugh, and John Laffin, all of whom will, however, retain responsibility for former areas of control: retailing, finance and furnishings and fabrics.

There was no real surprise in the City, where Liberty's thinly traded shares closed only 3p lower at 30.3p.

The cut in the final dividend means the interim payment of 1.85p will be the total for the year against last year's 7.2p payout. It had been held at that level since 1992, despite a steady decline in the group's profits.

## National Lottery knocks Littlewoods profits

**IN BRIEF**

• Berkshire Hathaway, the investment vehicle of veteran investor Warren Buffett, is selling a new class of shares with a difference. These come with a health warning from the great man himself. Filings with America's Securities and Exchange Commission for the \$112m offering say neither Mr Buffett nor vice-chairman at the Charles Munger would currently buy shares in Berkshire at the current price. "Nor would they recommend that their families or friends do so." The proposal to sell an initial tranche of 100,000 B shares at a third of the current price of around \$34.00 a B share is seen as a way of pre-empting plans by other companies to launch so-called "unit investment trusts". These would allow small investors to take a stake in Berkshire without putting up the full price of a share.

• Ciba, the Swiss chemicals group in the midst of a merger with Mettler Toledo weighing and analytical rivals Sandoz, is to sell its Mettler Toledo weighing and analytical instruments division for SF91.9m (£50.4m). The sale to AEA, a US-based company that plans to float Mettler Toledo in the US, means that plans to merge with Sandoz have been abandoned. The division, which had sales of SF1.1bn last year, will retain its existing management. AEA is one of the oldest private investment companies in the US. Its shareholders include 50 current or former heads of major international companies and institutions.

• The High Court in London has given liquidators of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International until 26 April to prove its compensation claims against the Bank of England. Accountants Deloitte & Touche said they must show that the UK's banking regulator "deliberately and knowingly" breached its obligations in licensing BCCI and that it knew its depositors would probably suffer loss as a result.

• British Rail's Network Train Engineering Services has been sold to WS Atkins Consultants. The company, the last of BR's three railway engineering services companies to move into the private sector, offers specialist engineering consultancy services to the traction and rolling stock industry. The business employs about 120 people at Derby, Euston and Croydon.

## Green light for £200m centre

**TOM STEVENSON**  
City Editor

A £200m shopping centre development in the heart of London is set to go ahead after it emerged yesterday that Elliott Bernard's Chelmsford property company has succeeded in its bid to take control of a controversial 37-acre site in White City.

The site, larger than Brent Cross in the north of the capital with 5,000 parking spaces, could be worth up to £200m on completion, analysis believe.

Chelmsford has been working for several months on plans to iron out the problems that had dogged the site for years. With part of the site owned by Godfrey Bradman, the former Rosehaugh boss, and planning permission in the hands of Sainsbury's, proposals to develop it appeared to have run into a dead end.

Mr Bernard succeeded, however, in persuading a range of interested parties, including big institutional funds such as Gen-

eral Accident and Scottish Amicable, to sell or go along with Chelmsford's proposals. The balance of power shifted last September when the property company acquired the Vandebilt Racquet Club, which occupied part of the site, gaining a place at the negotiating table.

A lease has already been signed by Sainsbury's, which has pre-committed to take 7,500 sq ft of the development for a supermarket.

Discussions are also under way with the local planning authority, Hammersmith & Fulham, to agree a detailed planning consent as soon as possible. Once that comes through, construction is expected to begin in the early part of next year with completion before the year 2000.

Chelmsford already owns 90 per cent of the Merry Hill shopping centre in the West Midlands, where rising rents helped it buck the recent trend in the property market with a 6 per cent rise in net assets in the year to December 1995.

The planned investment is expected to continue for the rest

## German rules put Rover in red

Rover Group's £91m profit, released last month, became a £14.8m loss yesterday as owner BMW highlighted the difference between UK and German accounting rules, writes Russell Hotten.

BMW said its UK division had sunk into the red, after making a £16m profit in 1994, because Germany's conservative accounting methods meant higher investment and depreciation costs were included.

Two weeks ago Rover announced that under UK accounting its profits had risen to £91m from £83m.

A spokesman said BMW, which paid British Aerospace £52.9m for Rover two years ago, had lifted its investment in the division by 30 per cent to more than £500m in 1995.

"The depreciation charges are purely as a result of the high level of capital investment which is itself a measure of BMW's confidence in the company," he said.

The planned investment is expected to continue for the rest

of the decade with an expected £2.2bn being spent on upgrading facilities, a new engine plant, and launching new models.

Rover's sales revenue had risen to £5.6bn from £4.9bn, while car production rose 4.8 per cent to 501,300 vehicles, BMW said. Sales for the group as a whole rose 2 per cent to DM11.5bn (£5.18bn) in the first three months of 1996. Production during the same period fell 6 per cent to 284,900 units while car deliveries to customers slipped 1 per cent to 265,200 units.

Production at Rover fell 3 per cent in the first quarter to 132,400 units. "For 1996 as a whole, we expect an increase over 1995 in production and sales for both BMW and Rover," Bernd Pieschetsrieder, BMW's chairman, said yesterday.

In 1995, BMW group car production totalled 1,098,582 vehicles with the Rover unit showing a rise in production of 34.1 per cent. BMW previously reported group net profit down slightly to DM692m in 1995 from DM697m a year earlier.

**See pages 19 - 22  
25 - 26**

**section two**

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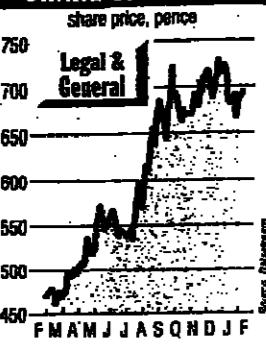
Every Wednesday in the  
THE INDEPENDENT  
section two

# market report/shares

## DATA BANK

FT-SE 100	3,728.5 + 10.1
FT-SE 250	4,348.7 + 21.8
FT-SE 350	1,877.2 + 6.0
SEAO VOLUME	931.3m shares, 54,217 bargains
Gifts Index	92.53 + 0.24

## SHARE SPOTLIGHT



## Thorn sparks renewed interest in takeover favourites

The excitement over Thorn EMI, which sent the shares spinning 140p higher to 1,845p, prompted stock market speculators to scampier after some other old takeover favourites.

Even United Biscuits, a perennial candidate, was taken down, dusted and pressed into service by investors seeking a likely target.

The Thorn adventure caught the market on the high. After trading moderately higher the shares suddenly took off as punters piled in on stories of a deal today.

Sony of Japan was the favourite to pounce. Time Warner of the US and Seagram, the Canadian drinks giant, with showbiz interests, were other names in the frame. Rumoured bid price was £23.

The story Thorn would sell its music side, thereby removing the need for the demerger, continued to circulate and there was also talk of an assets

exchange with Rank Organisation.

Rumours of Thorn action had circulated for a long time. It was after intensive market speculation that the group decided to demerge its music and rental operations. But the run-up to the split, due in June, has left it vulnerable to a bid. And with few Thorn shareholders likely to sell ahead of what should be a rewarding demerger the group is at the mercy of speculators.

Those who feel they had missed the Thorn boat were again happy to bank on Zeneca, another 15p up at 1,403p; Bank of Scotland (5p at 247.5p) and a number of insurance groups.

Some alighted on UB, 351p a year ago. The shares gained 7p to 241p. It has had a dreadful time and trading is likely to remain tough. UB looks a sitting duck for a bid but a buyer would inherit many problems.



## MARKET REPORT

### DEREK PAIN

Stock market reporter of the year

Insurers were helped by analytical activity with Société Générale, Strauss Turnbull favouring General Accident, GRE and United Friendly and NatWest Securities picking Legal & General, up 6p to 692p. NatWest regards L&G as a buy up to 750p.

The sector is, however, prone to take overtak. There are persistent stories of strikes with the likes of National Westminster Bank, as well as Continental insurers, said to be circling.

Metals group Johnson Matthey, which nearly merged with Cookson, was at one time up 6p on bid talk but closed only 1p higher at 580p.

BET, struggling to resist the Rentokil bid, was little changed at 204p. There were suggestions M&G was pressing the group to try to agree a deal with Rentokil.

BT and Cable & Wireless suffered a bout of nerves with BT off 7p at 375.5p and Cable 9p at 529p.

The FT-SE 100 index ended a mixed session 10.1 points higher at 3,728.5 with the supporting FT-SE 250 index stretching to another peak, up 21.8 to 4,348.7.

Opinion-trading listed British Gas 7.5p to 235.5p and Rolls-Royce, up 7p to 270p on SBC Warburg support and a Japanese engine order.

Vodafone pushed ahead 6.5p to 255.5p still celebrating its 3 millionth subscriber. It was also helped by a fall in the cost of handsets. Orange, with Kleinwort Benson saying buy, recovered 8.5p to 234p.

BSkyB fell 1.5p to 438p with NatWest suggesting an £80m downgrading would be needed if the satellite television group lost its Premiership TV rights. Ulster TV gave up 40p to 1,340p as Panmure Gordon cut its forecast.

Oils were firm as the crude price continued to move ahead. Shell gained 7p to 847p.

T2N, the car components group, fell 4p to 168p; it has lost an asbestos damages appeal. Zotefoams, a chemical group, tumbled 60p to 278p following a profit warning.

Asic (BSR), the Hong Kong-based electrical group, gained 7p to 137.5p. Investment presentations by its near-50 per cent shareholder

Emerson Electric sparked the interest. Persistent takeover hopes and strong trading have lifted the shares from an 8p low in 1991.

On the electricity pitch London managed the most powerful display, up 17p to 763p on vague talk of a bid.

Thames Water, up 2p at 574p, was mentioned as a possible predator.

Systems Integrated Research, an educational software group placed by Duracher at 115p, closed at 128p. But Easynet, the Internet group which touched 130p on its flotation last week, moved 3p lower to 105p, just 5p below its issue price.

Magnum Power, providing continuous power for computers, improved 13p to 151p. It raised £1.5m through a placing at 140p by Henry Cooke Lumsden. An upbeat trading statement accompanied the exercise.

## TAKING STOCK

Dicom, a document image processing group, is expected to be the next AIM star. The shares were placed at 270p and there is talk they could hit 320p when dealings get under way today. In December the group announced profits of £2m.

J Bibby, the material handling to laboratory equipment group controlled by Barlow of South Africa, firms to 120p. It is trading well and should demonstrate another strong profit advance when it reports interim figures next month. Bibby shares were down to 49p two years ago.

Shares of Bardon, the aggregates group, traded busily, reviving suggestions that the rumoured Camas takeover bid was on track. The shares rose 1.75p to 38.5p.

## Share Price Data

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items.

Other details: xR Ex rights xE Ex dividend xD Ex all U Unlisted Securities Market's Suspended op Partly Paid pn Nil Paid Shares.

Source: Finweek

## The Independent Index

The index allows you to access real-time share prices by phone from Seco. Simply dial 0891 123 333, followed by the 4-digit code printed next to each share. To access the latest financial reports dial 0891 2333 followed by one of the two-digit codes below.

FT-SE 100 - Real-time 00 Sterling Rates 00 Proliferation Issues 35  
UK Stock Market Report 01 Wall Street Report 05 Water Shares 36  
UK Company News 01 Wall Street 20 Electricity Shares 40  
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## Market leaders: Top 20 volumes

Stock	Volume	Stock	Volume	Stock	Volume	Stock	Volume
BT	220000	Rob Roy	90000	Pedro's	50000	General Elec.	70000
Bell & Tels	220000	Cable & Wire	100000	Shetl. Transport	50000	Telecom. 2000	70000
Volvo	100000	SIR	100000	SAT	847k	Siemens	70000
BP	100000	Telstar	100000	Lloyd's TSB	70000	Camion	70000
CHE	400000	ASDA Group	60000	Dicos	75000	MFI	60000

## FT-SE 100 Index hour by hour

Open	12.57 up 12.7	11.00 376.3 up 42	14.00 372.28 up 42
08.00 370.09 up 12.5	12.00 377.22 down 12	15.00 372.65 up 56	16.00 372.82 up 56
10.00 374.68 down 15	12.00 376.35 up 28	13.00 372.55 up 51	14.00 372.55 up 51

## Market leaders: Top 20 volumes

Stock	Volume	Stock	Volume	Stock	Volume
Stock	Volume	Stock	Volume	Stock	Volume
Stock	Volume	Stock	Volume	Stock	Volume
Stock	Volume	Stock	Volume	Stock	Volume
Stock	Volume	Stock	Volume	Stock	Volume

## Government Securities

### Government Securities

#### Index-linked

#### Shorts

#### Mediums

#### Longs

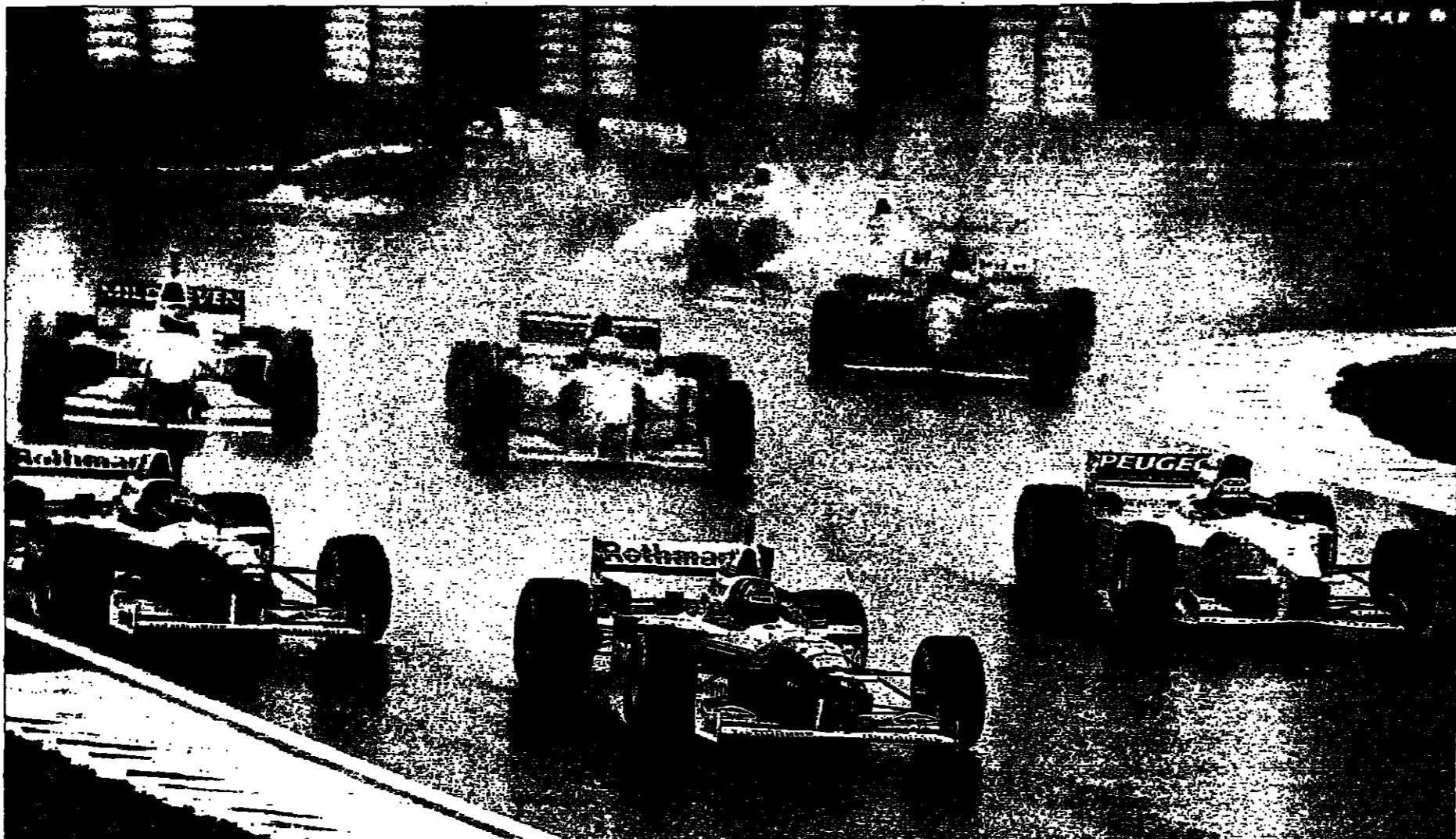
#### Government Securities





THE INDEPENDENT

# PLAY FORMULA 1 DREAM TEAM



## GRAND PRIX '96 RACE SCHEDULE

Argentinian GP April 7  
European GP April 28  
San Marino GP May 5  
Monaco GP May 19  
Spanish GP June 2  
Canadian GP June 16  
French GP June 30  
British GP July 14  
German GP July 28  
Hungarian GP August 11  
Belgian GP August 25  
Italian GP September 8  
Portuguese GP September 22  
Japanese GP October 13

Team Position Check Line: 0891 891 806

Results & Top 50 Teams Line: 0891 891 807

Calls cost 39p per minute, 49p per minute at all other times. Rules are as previously published and are available on request.

## The latest scores and results

There was only one driver to have in your team at Interlagos: Damon Hill. Pole position, fastest lap and race win, a totally dominant performance, and one of great maturity and bravery. At £23m, Damon doesn't come cheap, but right now he's streets ahead of the opposition. Jacques Villeneuve's performance in Melbourne made him look a bargain at £18m, but perhaps his inexperience showed in Interlagos, and the scarlet cars obviously need development. Asked where the team were losing time to Williams, Schumacher responded despondently: "Everywhere."

Benetton's French-Sicilian was the only driver in the same league – and on the same lap – as Hill, bringing his Dream Team score to a respectable level after the embarrassment of Melbourne. This time it was team-mate Gerhard

Berger's turn to suffer – early retirement means a minus score, and Benetton still have a way to go to catch up Williams.

Michael Schumacher at least managed to make it to the finish this time, but he looks poor value for his £25m Dream Team salary. His Ferrari team-mate Eddie Irvine was almost anonymous in Interlagos, and the scarlet cars obviously need development. Asked where the team were losing time to Williams, Schumacher responded despondently: "Everywhere."

Pedro Diniz is rapidly becoming the bargain buy of the season. His speed will always be impaired by the weight of his wallet, but Pedro trundles happily round at the tail of the field picking up places as other drivers fall off: he will score

vantage to line up alongside Damon Hill on the front row. But it was the audacity of his race driving that really impressed, constantly harrying more experienced drivers in the quest for a podium place at his home Grand Prix. Sadly he was too audacious in the end and fell off the track, but he had entertained nearly all day, and was well worth his five Dream Team points.

should put Pedro on their list. The other bargain-basement high-achievers were Diniz's Ligier team-mate Olivier Panis, and Tyrrell's Flying Finn Mika Salo. Black mark of the day went to Minardi's Grand Prix debutant Tarso Mar-

### DRIVER OF THE DAY: Rubens Barrichello



a bucketload more points this season. The bulk of these will come in the "most improved" category, as Diniz tends to qualify low on the grid and finishes relatively high in the field. Anyone thinking of entering the competition this week

ques, who spun off on the first lap. Minus five points, and a very red face, but you have to feel sorry for him: starting your first Grand Prix on a flooded track cannot be easy.

## WIN a drive in a Grand Prix car

The Dream Team manager with the highest number of points at the end of the Grand Prix Championship season will win our top prize - a drive in a 650bhp F1 car.

You will be flown to the AGS team's training

school in the south of France for the most exhilarating experience of your life. The school specialises in F1 courses and provides all the racewear and instruction you will need for a day driving F1 and other single seat cars.

### Top 50 Dream Teams

All teams are in equal 1st position with 131 points.

- 1 Bighill Racing
- 2 Fru-Fru People 6
- 3 The Spoilers
- 4 Karvey Team Racing
- 5 BJ Werbangers Racing Team
- 6 Goody Gum Drops
- 7 The Williton After Burners
- 8 Herbert Grand Prix Team 1
- 9 Louies Fan Club
- 10 Chapman's Chargers
- 11 Tyrrells Tyrants
- 12 Prolapse Racing
- 13 Morgan's Team
- 14 Come On Dad
- 15 Schuey's Shadow
- 16 PJW Racing
- 17 Allegro Racers
- 18 Eagles
- 19 Fox's Flyers
- 20 Nick's Nitos
- 21 Mark's Merry Men
- 22 Visa F1
- 23 Team Mac
- 24 The Tarmac Eaters
- 25 Spoer Heity
- 26 Slipstream
- 27 Hills Angels
- 28 Peter's Perfect First
- 29 Formula Feel Good
- 30 Hipala Team Racing
- 31 Blue Healers
- 32 Driving Force Racing
- 33 Riley's Radicals
- 34 Apricorn Fun House
- 35 No More Excuses
- 36 The Puerto Rico Team
- 37 Dodds 2
- 38 Boy Racer's Blues
- 39 Mug Chandlers
- 40 Mortal Combat
- 41 The Day Stormers
- 42 The Pace Setters
- 43 Curtis Cruisers
- 44 Ocean
- 45 Simon's Perfect Pitstop
- 46 Hot Dogs
- 47 The Wiggly Wagglies
- 48 Brad's Blazers
- 49 PDA Racing
- 50 Martin

Grand Prix



### CHASSIS

£20m	40 Benetton	14	24
£21m	41 Williams	19	39
£21.5m	42 Ferrari	14	30
£21.8m	43 McLaren	13	24
£21.9m	44 Sauber	0	0
£22m	45 Jordan	0	-5
£22.5m	46 Ligier	11	22
£23m	47 Tyrrell	12	24
£23.5m	48 Arrows	-4	-7
£24m	49 Minardi	-5	-6
£24.5m	50 Forti	-3	-3

### ENGINES

£26m	51 Renault	20	40
£27m	52 Ferrari	16	32
£27.5m	53 Mercedes	14	28
£28m	54 Peugeot	0	0
£29m	55 Mugen	12	24
£29.5m	56 Ford V10	0	11
£30m	57 Yamaha	13	26
£30.5m	58 Hart	0	0
£31m	59 Ford Zetec V8	0	0
£32m	60 Ford ED V8	11	11

JOIN 21,000 READERS WHO ARE PLAYING FORMULA 1 DREAM TEAM

See Thursday's and Friday's paper on how to register for the Argentinian Grand Prix on 7 April

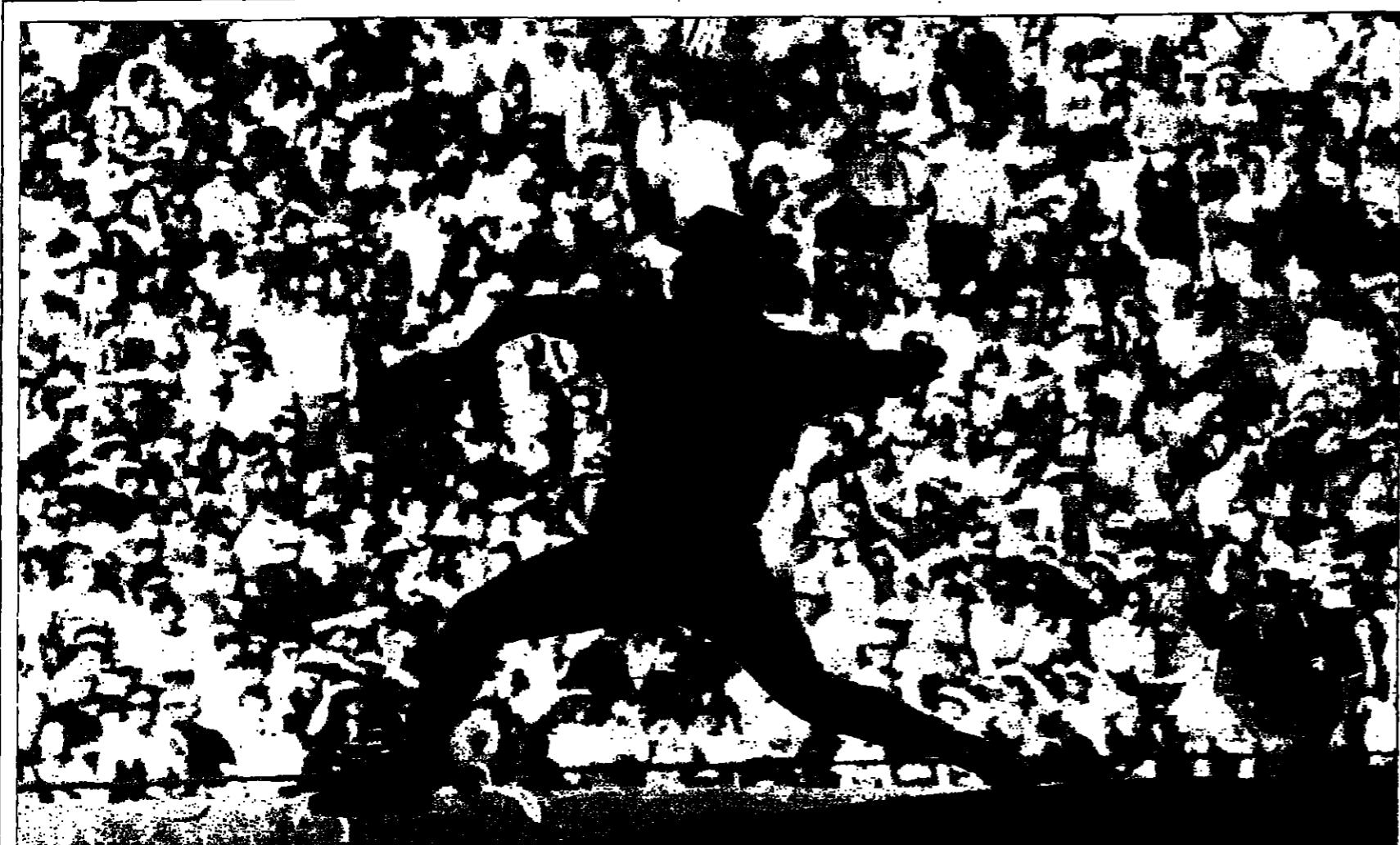
24

Nation

enters miss out

ISCOT





Losing start: Roger Clemens in action for the Boston Red Sox in their opening American League game against the Texas Rangers in Arlington. The veteran pitcher was relieved after giving up four runs in five innings and the Rangers went on to win 5-3. Photograph: Eric Gay/AP

## Greeks travel in hope of upset

### Football

Panathinaikos will pull off the biggest upset of the European season if they manage to derail Ajax's European Cup defence at the semi-final stage.

The Greeks go to Amsterdam for the first leg of the semi-final to take on Ajax, who are in prime form and bidding to extend a record 19-game unbeaten run in the continent's premier competition.

The Dutch league leaders have only lost once in six appearances in the semi-finals, going down 2-1 to the eventual winners, Nottingham Forest, in 1980.

In contrast, Ajax slipped to their third league defeat since mid-

January, going down 2-0 at Rode JC Kerkrade on Saturday, although virtually their entire first-team squad was out either injured or being rested.

Most of the absences will be back on Wednesday, but the Ajax coach, Louis van Gaal, is certainly not taking the Greek challenge lightly in the last major fixture at Amsterdam's Olympic Stadium before it is demolished and Ajax move to a new arena next season.

He expects Panathinaikos to pack midfield and play with one striker.

In the other semi-final, Nantes face as daunting a task as Panathinaikos as they take on Juventus. Nantes will be hoping that the surprising success of French club in

European competition this season will rub off on them.

In the quarter-final of the Cup-Winners' Cup, Paris St Germain knocked out Parma while, in the Uefa Cup, Bordeaux, who qualified through the Intertoto Cup, astonishingly overturned a 2-0 first-leg deficit to defeat Milan.

Nantes themselves staged a superb recovery to eliminate Spartak with two second-half goals in Moscow to earn their semi-final place.

Alessandro Del Piero has

scored in the away leg of every European match they have played in the last 10 years, are without winger Reynald Pedros, who is suspended and the injured midfielders Japhet N'Doram and Claude Makalele.

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Nantes, who have scored in

abble

# Jayasuriya hits records for six

**Cricket****HUGH BATESON**

Now we know it was no flash in the pan. Sanath Jayasuriya, the barnstorming snowstealer of the World Cup, scored the fastest century in the history of one-day international cricket in a truly amazing game of cricket against Pakistan in Singapore yesterday.

The left-hander took 48 balls to reach his century, broke two other records on the way and contributed to another landmark in the bargain. Just for the record, Sri Lanka, the recently crowned world champions, beat Pakistan by 34 runs in the opening round of the Singer Cup in Singapore.

Besides scoring the fastest century, overtaking Mohammed Azharuddin's previous best of 62 balls against New Zealand in 1989, Jayasuriya tossed in 11 sixes in his 134, for record No2 - the most in a one-day international innings, and for record No3 he took 29 runs off one Aamir Sohail over, the highest in a single over in an international limited-overs match.

Small wonder the Sri Lankans were able to reach 349 for 5 in their 50 overs.

Jayasuriya himself was not aware of any of his records as he broke them. "I played my normal game and got runs," he said. "I saw the ball early today and I believed in myself."

The game followed a pattern familiar to all World Cup watchers - total carnage from the first ball as Jayasuriya and Ramesh Kaluwitharana indulged in a 15 runs per over feeding frenzy.

It did not last long, but then it did not really have to.

Kaluwitharana was out to the last ball of the third over, by

which time he had made 34 from the 10 balls he faced and the score was already up to 45.

The tone had been set, although the Sri Lankans did slow down to a mere gallop as Jayasuriya and Asanka Gurusinha put on 156 runs in 18 overs for the second wicket before Jayasuriya was out, driving, in the 21st over. Gurusinha departed almost immediately for 29 in the same

over. Sri Lanka lost wickets regularly for the rest of the innings, but the show was still not quite over - Kumar Dharmasena, batting at No 8, contributed a career-best 51 to post what looked an invincible total.

Pakistan's response was an innings almost as exhilarating as Sri Lanka's - their 315 was built around 67 from Inzamam-ul-Haq and 68 from Salim Malik.

It meant the whole match had yielded a total of 664 runs. Surprisingly enough, this too was a one-day record.

**SINGER CUP (Singapore): Sri Lanka 345-5 (Sanath Jayasuriya 134, Ramesh Kaluwitharana 53, Wimal Weerasekera 4-45, Prasanna Jayasuriya 25, Sanath Jayasuriya 10, Roshan Mahanama 25, Salim Malik 68, Inzamam-ul-Haq 67, Salim Malik 51, Sri Lanka won by 34 runs)**

■ South Australia need to score 286 runs with eight wickets in hand on the last day of the final against Western Australia in Adelaide if they want to secure the Sheffield Shield in winning style. After leading the regular season standings, South Australia went into the five-day final requiring only a draw to take the trophy, but they now have victory in their sights after being set 343 to win by Tom Moody. South Australia started confidently, moving quickly to 40 before losing first-innings century maestro Paul Nobes and Darren Webster. Greg Blewett (22no) and nightwatchman Jason Gillespie (4no) took them through to the close.

**SINGERS CUP (Adelaide): Fourth day of five: Western Australia 323-9 dec (A Gleeson 125, R Bitter 83, T Moody 68, B Hogg 61) & 10-9-100; South Australia 325 (Sanath Jayasuriya 87, P Nobes 103, J Jayasuriya 87, B Julian 5-95) and 57-2.**

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**Jayasuriya hits six yesterday**

## Tongan weighs in for Paris

**Rugby League****DAVID HADFIELD**

Paris St-Germain plan to unleash an 18-and-a-half stone Tongan prop forward on the London Broncos tomorrow night for a match that will take one side to the top of the Super League.

Kava Utikamana flew in to Paris this week after spending two years as a professional boxer in America and has been immediately added to the squad for the match at The Valley.

"Kava is not just a heavyweight, he is a huge weight," the Paris chief executive, Tas Bauti, said of a player who also impressed playing for Tonga in the World Nines last month.

"He will certainly bring some power to our pack and I believe he has got a tremendous future in rugby league."

London will be without their injured centre, Evan Cochrane, with Tulson Tollett moving into his place and Duncan McRae coming in at stand-off for a match that will lift one club into first place until the rest of the programme on Good Friday.

The former Wigan and Great Britain loose-forward, Phil Clarke, has been allowed to leave hospital in Sydney after continuing his recovery from breaking a bone in his neck at the weekend.

The Leigh chairman, Mick Higgins, has banned his players from drinking after Wednesday, following an opening day defeat at Bramley.

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## Saive targets English Open

**Table tennis**

Jean-Michel Saive, the European champion, aims to mark his new No 1 world ranking by winning the English Open and the first stage of the International Table Tennis Federation professional tour, starting at the Kettering Arena today.

The 27-year-old Belgian has been elevated to the world's top spot following his victory in the final of the Qatar Open at Doha when he routed the opposition, including the top Chinese players.

As the final of the professional tour will be held in there in December, China has sent its most powerful team to Kettering, led by the world champion and top seed Qiong Linghu. He will be supported by the world No 2, Wang Tao, and two other highly rated players, Ma Wenge and Lu Lin, while Saive is only seeded third this time.

Saive, who will defend his European title in Bratislava, Slovakia, this month is favourite for the Olympic men's singles title in Atlanta next July.

## Bruno is still considering a future in ring

**Boxing**

Frank Bruno is still undecided whether to retire more than two weeks after losing his World Boxing Council heavyweight title to Mike Tyson.

"I'm still not sure what I'm going to do. I don't want to make a hasty decision, which I will regret later on," Bruno said. "I'm going to take time out. I'm spending time with my family, which I haven't been doing for the last three years."

"I've got to decide whether I'm going to carry on boxing or if I'm going to stop, and if I stop boxing, what I am going to do."

Bruno said he had discussed the future with his wife, Laura, but the final decision on whether he carries on will be his.

"She never comes into the boxing ring and I never go into the kitchen," he said. "She is leaving it entirely up to me."

man who has appeared in 10 successive finals and won on a record seven occasions.

"This was a huge step up for me," said Gooden, who took time off from A-level studies for his first-round defeat. "I'm not used to tournaments with electric scoreboards, line-judges, television lighting and spectators."

Gooden is due to join Clark in England's Under-18 team next month but both teenagers learned how much improvement will be needed for eventual promotion to the senior squad.

Hall has already set his sights on European and Olympic medals after the nationals. He is scheduled to meet his Olympic colleague Peter Knowles in the final tomorrow.

Knowles adopted a different approach to Hall. He had been drained by a 90-minute semi-final victory over China's Sun Jun in the Polish Open 48 hours earlier and took it easy in his win against Kevin Holland and Paul Hinder but still progressed to the last eight.

Nerves affected 17-year-old Gooden as he sampled his first taste of the Nationals against a

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More than just a game: Kerstin Sauer, 16, of Germany, on her way to the individual bronze medal yesterday

Photograph: Adam Scott

## Young bowlers strike out in search of fame

### Greg Wood on a sport determined to fashion a new image for itself

aim straight at the front pin, since this tends to leave the nightmare 7-10 split of the far left and right corners, which is all but impossible to convert to a spare with the second ball. Instead, the bowlers impart spin which causes a last-second swerve into the "pocket", the space between the first two rows of pins, and more often than not results in a strike.

This is a shame, because bowling has come a long way since Fred was throwing his uneven lump of granite. Among the contestants at the European Youth Championships yesterday, smooth, marbled urethane, with precision-drilled holes for tender young fingers was the material of choice, and most competitors had at least six balls to hand, to adjust to changes in the lane conditions.

"To get to the top you need a perfect swing, balance and head position," John Williams, Britain's leading coach, said. "Also, you need to understand how lanes react, and they all react differently. They will be affected by ball roll, the atmospheric conditions and the number and weight of balls thrown."

It is not advisable to simply

however, refer to the lane as an alley, or she will appear ready to beat you about the head with one of the skittles, and then do so again for calling it a skittle rather than a pin. Alleys are seedy, and skittles belong in pubs.

As a response to the public

image of bowlers as middle-aged and spreading, you could do no better than Sami Puuras from Finland, the winner of the Boys' Individual Championship by 15 pins - with 5,013 to 4,998, of Sweden's Peter Westin. A frail, almost skeletal, lead figure with John Lennon specs, Puuras's exterior hides a mental toughness of which any professional sportsman would be proud.

After five frames of the final game Puuras seemed to be faltering. Westin even edged into a slender lead, but then the Finn produced a devastating response - seven consecutive

strikes, delivered in the face of enormous pressure. Westin's first ball in the ninth frame took out all but the No. 10 pin, but that solitary survivor proved to be the difference between victory and defeat.

Puuras's poise faltered just once during the day, in the first game. After opening with 11 strikes he was just one more away from bowling's equivalent of the 147 break, a perfect 300-point game. "My knees went wobbly and my hands were shaking," he said, "and I let the ball go a little too soon." He came up three pins short, on 297.

In the girls' event, Gemma Burden from Weston-super-Mare, further demonstrated England's bowling strength, with both the boys and girls teams having already won gold medals, but on every lane the competitors bowled with exceptional skill and consistency.

Amid the constant smash and tumble of strikes and spares, however, there was one note of reassurance for anyone who has ever held a bowling ball. Occasionally, very, very occasionally, one of them will still bowl it straight down the gutter.

The Irish Rugby Football Union plan to

issue contracts to a 40-player panel in an effort to bring in a new generation of players to Ireland. Details have yet to be finalised but players could expect to receive around £30,000 a season. With international match fees and bonus payments, that could rise to £40,000.

**SUPER-12: Auckland Blue 51, Drago Highlanders 29, North 34, New South Wales 6.**

**Hockey**

**IRL: Florida 3 Hartford 2; Buffalo 6 Montreal 4; St Louis 1; St Edmund 6 Vancouver 2.**

**EUROPEAN CONFERENCE DIVISION**

**ATLANTIC DIVISION**

**Pittsburgh 48 26 4 261 96**

**Montreal 39 26 4 256 92**

**St Louis 31 36 9 221 246 85**

**Hartford 39 40 7 230 245 85**

**St Paul 39 40 7 230 245 85**

**St Louis 29 31 12 220 222 95**

**Montreal 34 29 12 196 181 80**

**St Paul 34 29 12 196 181 80**

**St Louis 20 47 6 207 293 46**

**ATLANTIC DIVISION**

**Pittsburgh 40 22 12 258 184 92**

**Pittsburgh 39 21 14 255 210 92**

**Montreal 39**

# SPORT

## Botham nominated as England selector

### Cricket

DAVID LLEWELLYN

Ian Botham has been nominated by Northamptonshire and Derbyshire as a potential England selector. The former Somerset, Worcestershire and Durham all-rounder faces four rivals and the field could swell by a few more, since Surrey intimated last night that they have yet to make up their mind. They have until midnight

tonight when nominations close.

The Test and County Cricket Board will announce the candidates tomorrow but the election will not take place until possibly a week after Easter. There are two places available, those held last season by Fred Titmus and David Graveney, the other three on the five-man panel being Ray Illingworth, the chairman, David Lloyd, the newly appointed England coach and the England captain, cur-

rently and likely to be, Michael Atherton.

Sources close to the former England all-rounder Botham say he was happy to pursue the role, but there was still a sense of surprise within the game at his nomination. However, there is no doubt that a large majority of the country would welcome his presence in any role at international level.

There is no doubt that he could impart some of his magic, perhaps even on the coach-

ing front, but the job of selector involves a lot of travelling, a lot of watching and a lot of time out on the boundary of the game, as it were, looking for the likely lads who have the potential.

Botham's appetite for hard work is not in question, it is necessary only to consider his charitable deeds over the years for the answer, but he has some demanding commitments in the media. Apart from his appearances on the long-running BBC quiz programme, *4 Question of*

Sport

, he also works for Sky television, there is a regular column on the *Daily Mirror*, and his speaking tours, which he has undertaken with Viv Richards and Allan Lamb.

Graveney, who pulled out at the last minute after being nominated for chairman of selectors in opposition to Illingworth, is understood to be standing, having been put forward by Gloucestershire who backed him for the job last year.

Botham is one of two names

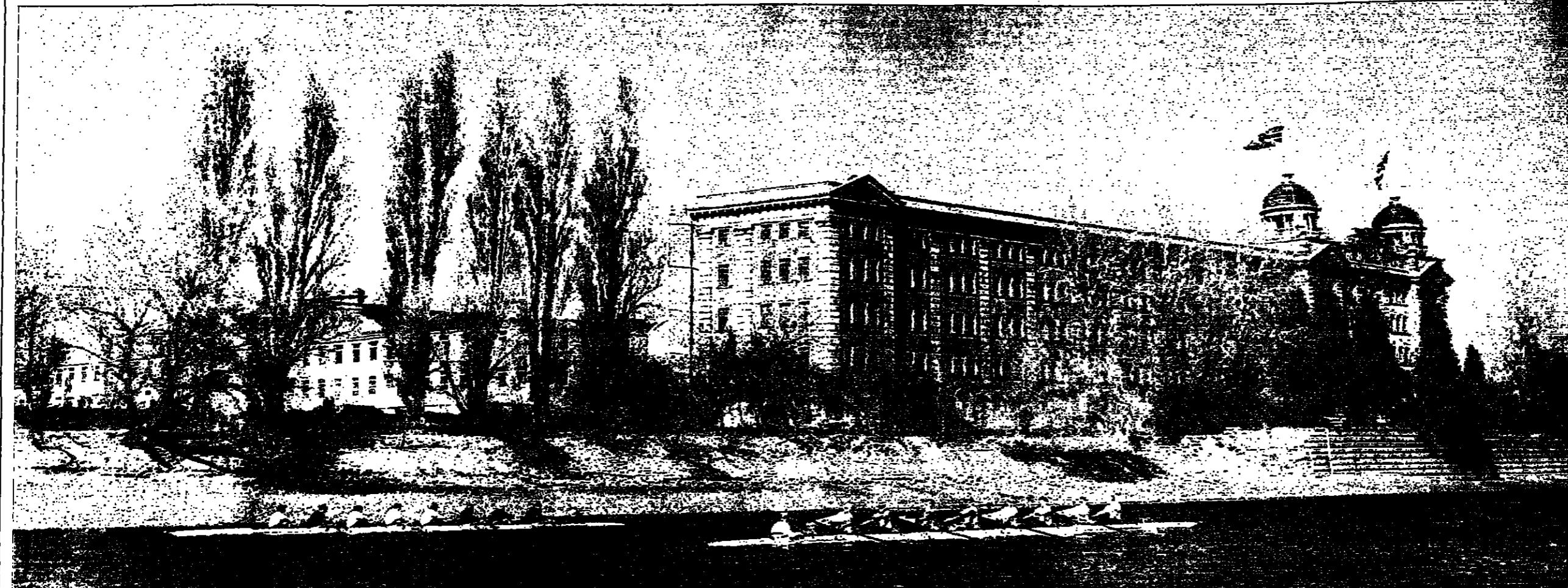
put forward by Derbyshire, the other being their former captain Kim Barnett, while Titmus and Brian Boos have been put forward as well. Surrey are likely to nominate John Edrich and possibly one other, but officials at The Oval would not be drawn on the issue last night. With an undercurrent of opinion that younger men should be involved at the top level in the coaching and selection of the England side, it is not surprising that late last night the

names of Middlesex's captain, Mike Gatting, and the former Essex and England captain Graham Gooch were being touted as possible nominations.

Since Illingworth was distinctly put out by Graveney's original nomination for his post of chairman, he hardly likely to welcome the former Gloucestershire and Durham captain's re-entry at a lower level. It would be fascinating to be a fly on the wall at a selectors' meeting were Botham and

Graveney to gain election. Graveney had made it plain prior to his withdrawal that had he stood and won the election for chairman of selectors, Botham would have figured prominently in his set-up. Botham has been dismissive of Illingworth's efforts in charge of the national team, and for his part the former Yorkshire, Leicestershire and England off-spinner has not held back when assessing Botham's capabilities in that sphere. Jayasuriya's records, page 27

University oarsmen pass on the river as crews count down to the Boat Race



The crews of Oxford (left) and Cambridge Universities pass the Harrods Depository while travelling in opposite directions on the Thames yesterday as they prepare for the 143rd Boat Race on Saturday

Photograph: Robert Hallam

## Magpies' faltering pursuit of silver

As the fog descends on Keegan's Tyneside football revival, Ian Potts senses the mounting anxiety at St James' Park

he noted recently, drawing on the experience of his own playing days at Anfield. "But I promise you, once it does come in it will be like a magnet, and the others will come thick and fast."

It is that belief which drives both Keegan and his benefactor, Sir John Hall, and which makes the winning of Newcastle's first major championship since 1927 all the more crucial.

Where once there was talk of the treble, now there is not much talk at all.

Usually the most eloquent and obliging of managers, Keegan has taken to slipping silently away from the team's Durham training base or, as he did for the week leading up to Manchester United's recent visit,

barring the press all together.

Last weekend's post-match volley after the horror show at Highbury, where he named the guilty men - Ferdinand, Asprilla, Beardsley, Ginola and Lee - was wholly out of character for one renowned for his affability.

Alone among his peers, he is happy to talk up the club's long-term projections, in the belief that it spreads self-confidence. Where others are loath to back their chances of winning so much as the toss, the 3-0 beating of West Ham was evidence enough for Keegan to claim his side would have a genuine chance of winning next year's Champions League. The inherent danger with raising expectations to such a height is

that there is an awfully long way to fall, and an awful lot of fans to take down with him.

What has deepened Tyneside's anxiety is the re-emergence of Sunderland, who many assumed were condemned to drift forever in the dead-End League after their failure to capitalise on the top flight ticket gifted by Swindon's misdemeanours in 1990. For the Magpies to miss out completely, while the dreaded "Mackems" lift the First Division title on a budget roughly equating to Sir John's loose change, would be torture indeed.

One accusation regularly hurled Keegan's way is that he values his purchases way above any of the locals. Tynesiders

Steve Watson, whose late goals proved decisive in the season's two previous encounters with Liverpool, Lee Clark and Robbie Elliott were all first-teamers before his return, yet are now peripheral figures.

It is a common trait with managers who feel they must justify their expenditure, and Keegan has spent more than most. So far, in exchange for nothing more than the old First Division championship.

The one Geordie assured of his place is Peter Beardsley, who, the heretics suggest, is finally showing signs of fallibility. Judging by his omission at Wembley last week, Terry Venables has noticed it too. Out of position and out of sorts, "Peter Pan" has increasingly resembled one of the Lost Boys. For Keegan, the fairy-tale is turning distinctly Grimm.

Commission and explain why he has been booked so much," an FA official said.

Mark Ford, the Leeds midfielder, was also scheduled to appear at the FA after reaching 45 points, but his club has a match against Southampton and his case will now be dealt with in correspondence.

Hughes, the Welsh international, has already missed seven games through suspension and there is a danger that figure could now reach double figures. Any fresh suspension will start on Saturday, and there is also the possibility of a fine, after Hughes' card tally reached the 45-point mark.

The hearing comes only three days after Chelsea lost their Wembley chance against the double-chasing Manchester United, while the club's stump of one win in the last seven Premiership games means an uphill task to earn a place in the UEFA Cup on their league position.

Hughes' absence over Easter would be an unwelcome setback. Chelsea are at home to Aston Villa on Saturday and then away to Bolton two days later, but it looks inevitable unless he can convince the commission otherwise.

Last season, Ian Wright was banned for four games and fined £1,000 after being called up after breaching level three of the disciplinary structure, although he was a month ahead of Hughes. "Mark Hughes will have a chance to speak to the

## Title race to go into overdrive

Terry McDermott yesterday

forecast that Newcastle United's

spluttering championship chal-

lenge will come alive again at

Anfield today.

Newcastle, 10 points clear at

one stage, have seen their seem-

ingly invincible title lead turned

into three-point deficit on

Manchester United, with Liver-

pool five points behind. But

Newcastle do still have two

games in hand over United and

as he prepared to return to the

ground he and Kevin Keegan

graced as players, the Magpies'

assistant manager refused to

accept a run of one win in five

games had been fatal.

"Of course this is a big

game, but there's one thing for

certain," McDermott said. "If we

win eight games no one can

do anything about it, and that's

the way we've got to look at

things.

Liverpool will have a big

part to say in the title, but

if they don't win they'll

feel it's slipped away from them.

## Brolin plays the fool

Tomas Brolin has apologised to the Leeds manager, Howard Wilkinson, after an April Fool's Day prank backfired.

The £4.5m signing, whose future at Elland Road is in doubt, told Swedish television he was going to play out the season on loan to Norrkoping.

It was meant to be a practical joke, with the Swedish international adding that he hoped to play for another team in Europe next season.

However, the interview was picked up by news agencies and relayed around the world.

Wilkinson said: "I have spoken to Tomas, who gave permission for Swedish TV to conduct an April Fool's interview. He has been surprised by the stir it caused in England."

Wilkinson may now have second thoughts about playing Brolin, who has not been a regular in the team, for the match against Southampton tomorrow.

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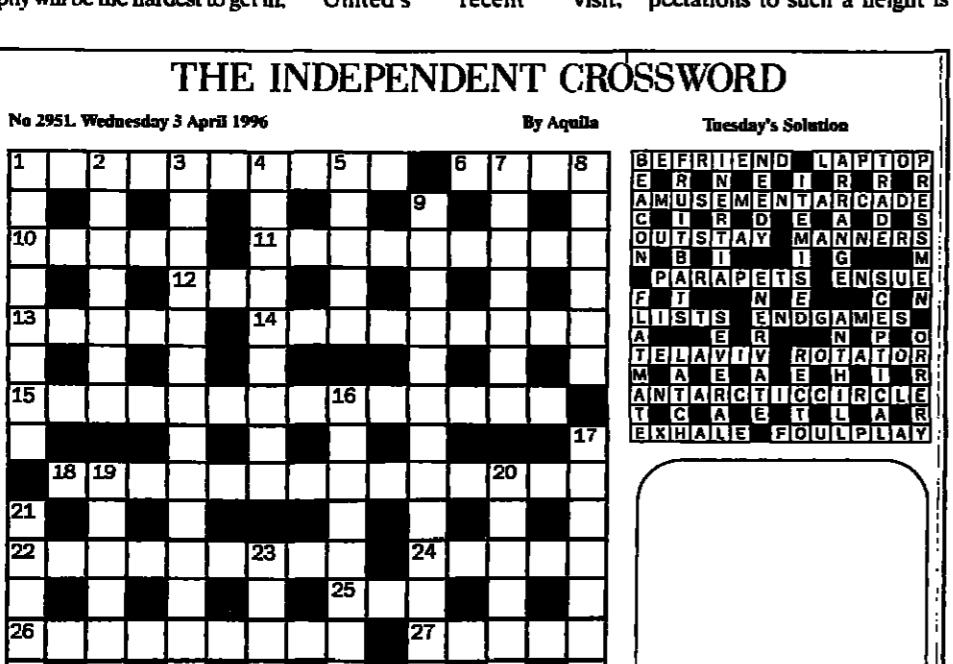
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**ACROSS**

- Prompt spider pose problem? (10)
- Principal god of noise (4)
- Fleet's power in attack (5)
- Inhabitant at home by day to Dickens' Sam (9)
- Popular name for a pub (3)
- Engaged in air-conditioning in main courts of Roman houses (5)
- Frank taking tea, unusually, with applicant (9)
- Letters of agreement (14)
- Only cleverest members of society lie in Tintagel's ruins (14)
- Bucher has to chop front part of neck (9)
- Feeblest show of energy in final (5)
- What is charged for iron key? (3)
- Flourish of brass is new in twin seats of Irish kings (9)
- Foreign article contains falsehood (5)
- Head of English to settle back in university (4)
- Toys with handles rip apart! (10)
- DOWN
- Standard weapon, in a manner of speaking (8)
- Nero, for example, was through in Rome, ruined (7)
- Subcontinental pro-boscidean with total recall facility (6,8)
- Declared doctrine of cardinal (9)
- Market town in which to find Ogham characters, possibly? (5)

## Hughes called for explanation

Chelsea's fading realisation of European competition next season is likely to suffer another setback today when Mark Hughes, their striker, faces a Football Association commission to explain his burgeoning disciplinary record.

Hughes, the Welsh international, has already missed seven games through suspension and there is a danger that figure could now reach double figures. Any fresh suspension will start on Saturday, and there is also the possibility of a fine, after Hughes' card tally reached the 45-point mark.

The hearing comes only three days after Chelsea lost their Wembley chance against the double-chasing Manchester United, while the club's stump of one win in the last seven Premiership games means an uphill task to earn a place in the UEFA Cup on their league position.

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commission and explain why he has been booked so much," an FA official said.

Mark Ford, the Leeds midfielder, was also scheduled to appear at the FA after reaching 45 points, but his club has a match against Southampton and his case will now be dealt with in correspondence.

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